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# Saipan Tribune

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## OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Would you support a recall petition against Gov. Benigno R. Fitiaf?

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First lady Michelle Obama lovingly praises her husband in a prime-time speech.

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More than 100,000 Syrians fled their country in August.

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### LIFE & STYLE



Producers of "The Price Is Right" ignore Bob Barker for the show's 40th anniversary.

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'Many provisions of Obamacare still unknown for Guam, NMI.' **PAGE 2**  
Fitiaf files complaint on fake Twitter account. **PAGE 5**

# 16 ARTICLES OF IMPEACHMENT

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
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REPORTER

House minority leader Joe Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan) formally introduced yesterday afternoon a milestone resolution initiating impeachment proceedings against Gov. Benigno R. Fitiaf for 16 acts of felony, corruption and neglect of duty, followed immediately by House Speaker Eli Cabrera's (R-Saipan) formation of a special committee on impeachment that has 30 days to report to the full House.

» **30 days for impeachment committee to report**

The end of that 30-day period will be a month before the Nov. 6 midterm elections.

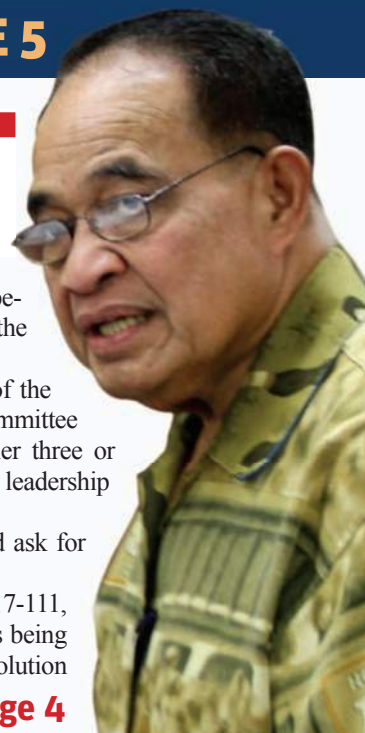
Cabrera said the names of the members of the special committee will be known today—either three or four each from the House leadership

and the minority bloc.

But Cabrera said the special committee could ask for additional time if they deem it necessary.

With the introduction of House Resolution 17-111, the CNMI adds to its list of dubious distinctions being the first U.S. territory to formally introduce a resolution

**See FITIAF on Page 4**



## CUC increases LEAC rate anew

By MONETH G. DEPOSA  
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REPORTER

Due to the increased prices of fuel in the world market, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. once again increased its leveled energy adjustment clause—or LEAC charge—effective today, Sept. 6.

The last time the corporation increased the LEAC rate was on Aug. 3, also due to unstable fuel prices.

LEAC is part of the customer's bill that reflects the cost of fuel. It goes up or down to reflect the cost of buying fuel to run the power plants. The other component of the bill is the electric base rate, which remains unchanged.

CUC chief financial officer Charles

**See CUC on Page 4**

## Summit focuses on Northern Islands

Over a year of hard work will finally pay off as the 1st Northern Frontier Summit: Pioneering Re-Development in the Northern Frontier takes place today from 7:30am to 4pm at the Azucena I and II at Fiesta Resort & Spa in Garapan.

**See story on Page 2**



Rep. Tony Sablan (R-Saipan), right, confers with representatives of active government employees on a pension recovery bill during a House session break yesterday afternoon. The House passed the pension recovery bill which now heads to the governor for action, but the House rejected a Senate-amended \$114 million budget bill for fiscal year 2013.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

## House, Senate budget deadlock again

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
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REPORTER

As expected, the House of Representatives rejected yesterday a Senate-amended \$114 million budget bill barely three weeks before the Sept. 30 deadline to pass a

fiscal year 2013 budget.

A bicameral conference committee will be formed to remove the budget deadlock between the House and Senate.

» **Pension recovery bill now heads to governor**

If no budget is passed by Sept. 1, the government will be forced to temporarily shut down starting Oct. 1 until as

Among the contentious issues House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) sees are the \$300,000 for retroactive salary payments on Saipan and Rota that the Senate added, as well as the Public School System's budget versus the needs of other agencies such as the hospital.

The House rejected the Senate version of the House budget bill by a vote

**See BUDGET on Page 4**



# BACK 2 SCHOOL SPECIALS

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## PSS expects \$30 million in federal grants this new fiscal year

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**  
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REPORTER

Public schools in the Commonwealth expect to receive \$30 million in total grants from various federal agencies this fiscal year 2013, which starts on Oct. 1.

PSS federal programs officer Tim Thornburgh said this amount is par for the course and is the total federal assistance the system regularly gets for its various programs each year.

The biggest chunk is for the schools' breakfast and lunch meal program, which has a \$10 million allocation for the CNMI this school year. This grant is from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Services and provides

free meals to public and private school students.

Also included in the regular grant is the consolidated grant from the U.S. Department of Education, which allocated \$8.4 million for PSS this new fiscal year.

This grant seeks to help PSS achieve its goals, which include ensuring that students are scoring at the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile or higher on the SAT 10; that 80 percent of students are reading on or above grade level; and that 90 percent of students are scoring at proficient or above on the standard based assessment by 2014.

Under the \$8.4 million consolidated grant, \$900,000 is set aside for assessment; the Troops to Teacher program is allocated

\$749,065; and \$6.7 million will be used for public and private school programs and needs.

It was through this grant that PSS was able to fund the salaries of some classroom teachers, career and technical education program, after-school activities, students' laptops, distance education, and professional development workshops in past years.

Also included in the regular grant for PSS is the Special Education program, which is allocated a little over \$5 million in 2013. This funding covers the salaries of teachers and specialists and the needs of students with disabilities, among others.

Also funded by the federal government is the PSS' Head Start program, which accom-

modates 3- to 5-year-old students. This new fiscal year, the program is allocated \$2 million, Thornburgh said.

The e-Rate program expects to receive \$1.2 million for the maintenance, upgrade, and replacement of schools' networks and technology.

A \$1 million grant is also allocated for PSS this new fiscal year for reading.

The rest of the federal grant funds, according to Thornburgh, is a combination of small grants for professional development of personnel, grants for library books and materials, and other school needs.

PSS, in the last two fiscal years, received a significant

amount of federal assistance for its various programs and needs through the American Recovery Reinvestment Act, which awarded PSS \$32.4 million.

This grant ends this month.

Thornburgh said that PSS, as always, will continue to seek new and additional grants for its programs and needs.

## Cops' vehicle stop found lawful

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman yesterday ruled as lawful the police officers' stopping of a car that nearly hit their vehicle at a secluded beach area in Susupe that is reportedly notorious for illegal activities at night.

Wiseman denied Joseph A. Crisostimo's motion to suppress evidence, citing that the police officers had reasonable suspicion, which justified the search and seizure of evidence.

Wiseman also denied Crisostimo's motion for appointment of a confidential independent testing of drugs and drug results.

The Office of the Attorney General charged Crisostimo with possession of a controlled substance.

The defendant, through counsel, filed the motions to suppress evidence and for appointment of confidential independent testing of drugs or drug results.

Wiseman heard the motions last Aug. 22.

Crisostimo argue that he was stopped without reasonable suspicion or probable cause and that all evidence of any wrongdoing must therefore be suppressed.

The government, through assistant attorney general Nicole Driscoll, maintained that the officers did have reasonable suspicion to conduct an investigatory stop, justifying the approach and search.

According to court records, police officers Tyrone Teregeyo and T. J. Yangetmai were conducting a routine patrol of a secluded beach in Susupe on Jan. 11, 2012, at 3:17am when they encountered a car attempting to leave the area. The Tercel car sped in the officers' direction, almost hitting the officers' vehicle.

Because of the narrowness of the road and the tall vegetation surrounding it, there was no space for the car to drive around the officers' vehicle.

The officers got down from their vehicle to inquire if anything was wrong or to see if

perhaps the driver had been drinking.

Teregeyo allegedly noticed a small, clear glass pipe in the back seat behind the driver's seat and asked the driver, John Namauleg, and the passenger, Crisostimo, to get off the car.

Namauleg and Crisostimo allegedly became defensive and were secured for safety purposes and for further investigation.

The officers discovered the glass pipe contained a residue that could be crystal methamphetamine or "ice." The residue later tested presumptive positive for "ice."

In denying Crisostimo's motions, Wiseman said that because the circumstances gave rise to suspicion, the officers were justified in approaching the vehicle. He said the plain view doctrine also allowed the officers to seize the glass pipe.

"Officer Teregeyo viewed the contraband from the lawful vantage point of the investigatory stop, therefore there was no invasion of a legitimate expectation of privacy," Wiseman said.

Because the plain view doctrine applies in these circumstances, Wiseman said the contraband

should not be suppressed.

Taking into account that the law recognizes the particularly hazardous nature of roadside encounters, Wiseman said he finds the officers were justified in performing the patdown, and therefore the paraphernalia found as a result of such should not be suppressed.

On the testing issue, Wiseman said the rules do not prevent the defense counsel from interviewing the government's expert. The defendant, Wiseman said, will have enough opportunity to cross-examine the government's expert witness.

"The provision of an additional expert for defendant, absent an adequate showing of need, would be superfluous and the denial of such does not result in a fundamentally unfair trial," the judge added.

Last March 13, Superior Court associate judge Joseph N. Camacho revoked the probation of Crisostimo and re-imposed the remaining five-year sentence in a previous case over a burglary at Marianas Cable Vision in Susupe in 2006.

Camacho said that Crisostimo's long criminal history and recent charges speak of a deep lack of respect for the law and the people of the CNMI.

### CRIME OF THE WEEK

## MHS loses 5 laptops to burglars

Crime Stoppers is seeking the community's assistance for information on a burglary and theft incident that occurred at Marianas High School in Susupe.

On Sunday, Sept. 2, 2012, at about 10:45am, police responded to a burglary incident located at the school's MEDIA classroom D-104. The teacher, a local male, discovered the classroom door unlocked when he approached the room. The teacher opened the door to discover that the window louvers have been removed from the window next to his desk. The suspect(s) gained entry through the window by pushing it in and breaking a fiberglass frame protecting the window.

Five silver MacBook Pro laptops with a 17" screens were taken from the classroom. Each laptop is valued at over \$1,500 each. The stolen laptops contain special video production software unique to those laptops.

The computer laptops were last seen on Friday, Aug. 31, 2012, at about 4pm when the teacher locked up the classroom.

DPS and Crime Stoppers need your help. Please contact the Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272 should you want to remain anonymous or use our website at [www.nmicrimestoppers.net](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.net) Crime stoppers pays up to \$1,000 for any information leading to an arrest. It pays to call. **(Crime Stoppers)**

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## 'Some employers use wrong contact numbers in JVs'

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
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REPORTER

Some employers are using wrong contact numbers in advertising job positions, according to the Department of Labor Division of Employment Services director Alfred Pangelinan.

Pangelinan said yesterday that many people have called him up to report the

wrong telephone numbers given by some employers, prompting him to dial the numbers.

"I'm finding out that their claim is true," Pangelinan said. He refused to disclose the names of the employers, saying Labor is now addressing the allegations.

The Labor official said a certain corporation is giving out different telephone numbers or ones that bear an-

other person's name.

He reminded employers that under the present law, these violations carry a maximum \$2,000 fine.

"That would be a figure decided by a hearing administrative officer if the case goes that far," Pangelinan said.

He said they want to send out a message to employers that they just want them to actually provide an easy, fair

and equitable access to the job competition that they are offering.

"We're just trying to get things more

defined in trying to exhaust the employers' efforts to hire our U.S. eligible workers," he added.

## CUC

From Page 1

Warren said yesterday that the rate increase is about 10.8 percent, which translates to an increase of about \$11.38 per month for the average customer. Average residential customers use up to 500 kWh every month.

Because electricity is also used to pump water and wastewater systems, the water electric and wastewater electric charges will also be adjusted soon, Warren said. This has not been calculated yet, he added.

Based on average loads, the 10.8 percent increase equates to about \$580,000 monthly collection for CUC. According to Warren, this will be used to cover the increased cost of fuel purchases.

Based on the CUC statement released yesterday, the new LEAC rate is \$0.31212 per kWh, some 10.81 percent higher than the August rate of \$0.28168 per kWh.

"CUC observes that oil prices have gone through a wild ride this year, rising more than 10 percent a barrel by March

1, then dropping nearly 30 percent by late June, and now surging over 24 percent on Monday alone. While it comes as no surprise that these commodity prices are highly volatile, the upward swings last month means higher costs for fuel, just as we have seen at the gas pump," the CUC statement said.

"CUC receives no financial benefit from the LEAC charges; simply it is a pass-through charge to pay for fuel, which comprises 70 percent of the electric rates. Also, the direct LEAC pass-through to customers is important for the utility's financial health, since CUC has no working capital or monies in reserve—it relies fully on its bill paying customers for operations. That is why immediate adjustments to the LEAC, when they occur, are as important as CUC must pay this higher price for fuel today, while collections of the higher tariff lag," the statement added.

CUC said it is continuously working to stretch fuel dollars by seeking increased efficiencies in its operations. "Like many businesses and agencies in the CNMI, CUC has been weakened by

the economy. Despite these challenges, CUC's day-to-day operational mission is unchanged, in that we remain committed to supplying our customers with quality power, water, and wastewater services," added the statement.

## 'Power customers continue to dip'

Meantime, power customers of CUC continue to show a decline.

From the June 30 record of 14,818 power customers, Warren said yesterday that CUC's power client base at present is about 14,290. CUC defines active customer as one who receives a bill for services during the month.

The significant decline in active customers is being blamed on the general economic slowdown being experienced on the island and the impact of the federal immigration system.

Since the federal government took over the labor and immigration systems of the Commonwealth, many nonresident workers have left the island while many local residents have relocated to the U.S. mainland due to lack of job opportunities and economic hardships on island.

## RESOLUTION

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan), left, and Rep. Ray Palacios (Cov-Saipan) lead the presentation of Palacios' House Commemorative Resolution 17-29, conveying condolences to the family of the late Joaquin Santos Aguon, fondly known as "Akin Mantika," on his untimely passing, during yesterday's session.

## BUDGET

From Page 1

of 13-4.

Those who voted "no" to rejecting the Senate version of the bill were Reps. Janet Maratita (Ind-Saipan), Joe Palacios (R-Saipan), Teresita Santos (Ind-Rota), and Trenton Conner (R-Tinian).

Absent were Reps. Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan), George Camacho (Ind-Saipan), and Sylvester Iguel (Cov-Saipan).

Cabrera said he will name the members of the conference committee today, with Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Ray Basa (Cov-Saipan) leading the House conferees.

Conner said he voted "no" to the motion to reject the Senate-amended bill because he believes that the \$33 million that PSS asked for and the Senate granted runs the risk of being dropped by a few millions of dollars once it goes to the conference committee.

Most of the comments heard from the public during the House session were in support of the \$33 million PSS budget. PSS asked for this amount, but the House gave it only \$28 million, while the governor gave some \$30 million.

Education Commissioner Rita Sablan, Ph.D., said that giving 29 percent of the government's \$114 million projected revenue will "provide quality and the best education to our children from birth through 21 and in most cases school age children from 3 to 17 years of age."

Sablan said if they get the \$33 million, they will be able to reduce the large class size from 30 or 42 to 25 to one teacher at PSS, eliminate double sessions and prevent future modified schedules, and be able to hire about 60 classroom teachers, school counselors and school administrators on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Sablan said a \$33 million budget will also enable PSS to secure schools and deter thieves at night.

In the last three weeks, PSS had one of its buildings vandalized, and copper wires were removed. A similar incident took place last week, with school equipment stolen.

"If we are to operate efficiently and effectively, we ask for a budget package of \$33 million. If the House should move to reject the Senate budget bill for a special reason, please revise what is necessary without changing the \$33 million that has been pegged by the Senate," Sablan said.

Board of Education chair MaryLou Ada raised concerns about the Senate's amendments to the budget bill restricting the expenditure authority of the education commissioner, which she said violates the Constitution.

Besides Sablan and Ada, others who testified in support of retaining the \$33 million budget for PSS were PSS federal programs officer Tim Thornburg, Kagman Elementary School acting principal Ruth Bigalbal and their school's counselor, Marianas High School principal Cheryln Cabrera, PSS' Jackie Quitugua, and BOE member Herman Sablan.

## Pension reform bill

In other news, the House passed a Senate-amended pension recovery bill by a vote of 16-1, with Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Cov-Saipan) the only one voting "no."

House Bill 17-315, House Draft 1, Senate Draft 1 now heads to the governor for action.

If signed into law, the measure allows active members to decide whether to refund their contributions without being penalized, continue working, and transition into the U.S. Social Security system, or remain with the NMI Retirement Fund in hopes that the pension program improves as it receives additional funding from the central government.

Employees will also get back 25 percent of their contributions after deciding to withdraw within 30 days and the remaining 75 percent will be disbursed to them within 90 days.

Joe Pangelinan, representing active government employees, expressed relief yesterday that the bill finally passed the House.

"It's been nine long months since House Bill 17-226 was introduced, vetoed, override was defeated, and then Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos came up with a solution that became HB 17-315. We thank those who made this happen," Pangelinan told *Saipan Tribune*.

Dozens of uniformed police officers, corrections officers and other government employees were at the House session to show support to HB 17-315.

The Fitial administration wants to transition government employees to the U.S. Social Security program and place the NMI Retirement Fund under the Department of Finance mostly to disburse pensions for current retirees, as part of the plan to address mounting concerns about the troubled public pension agency. Fitial placed the NMI Retirement Fund under a state of emergency.

## FITIAL

From Page 1

to impeach its governor.

This is also the first time in CNMI history that an impeachment resolution was introduced, although it's the second time that there's an attempt to remove the governor.

After Deleon Guerrero introduced his resolution that the Fitial administration has described as "frivolous," he told his colleagues that the resolution is still open to anyone who wants to co-sponsor it.

Besides Deleon Guerrero, the six other co-sponsors of the impeachment resolution are Reps. Frank Dela Cruz (R-Saipan), Ray Tebuteb (R-Saipan), Ray Yumul (R-Saipan), Tony Sablan (R-Saipan), Janet Maratita (Ind-Saipan), and Trenton Conner (R-Tinian).

Community members Glen Hunter and Leila Staffler directly addressed the lawmakers, urging them to pass the impeachment resolution to hold public officials accountable to their actions.

Hunter said even the Fitial administration has gone on record saying that the seven lawmakers that authored the resolution did so for political gains, not political suicide.

"And if you were to support that, you are also gaining political favor with the voters. Understand that well because that is very important," Hunter said.

Hunter also tried to answer some of the major concerns raised by lawmakers who said they are either voting "no" or are still "undecided," including the Fitial administration's own contention that the allegations "do not rise to the level of impeachment proceedings."

"I ask you all to thoroughly read all those articles of impeachment. If they don't rise to that level, I ask that you

ask yourself, what would rise to the level of impeachment?" he said.

Hunter also said that the timing for pre-filing the impeachment resolution should not be a factor in not supporting the passage of the impeachment resolution.

"I don't think there's ever a wrong time to do the right thing," he added.

Hunter said another issue brought up which he also supports is that "the governor of the CNMI is innocent until proven guilty."

He said this is true that is why the House should give Fitial the chance to defend himself, and that is by moving the impeachment resolution to the Senate.

"The Constitution was constructed in a way that gives him that ability, and that ability is not in this house but is in the Senate. And I ask that you pass the articles of impeachment because as they stand they are accurate," he said.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said the governor will be addressing the impeachment allegations against him, including those in connection with the 25-year power purchase agreement but there's still no telling when and how would that be.

Hunter also told lawmakers that the articles of impeachment have the support of many in the community.

Rep. Sylvester Iguel (Cov-Saipan) said that once the impeachment resolution clears the House, the governor "is as good as convicted" even before the Senate hears it. Iguel alleges that the Senate's actions have already showed that it is not going to give a fair and impartial impeachment proceedings.

Joe Deleon Guerrero said it's brave of Hunter and Staffler to speak out and remind lawmakers that public officials should be held accountable for their actions.

The speaker himself said he respects those who speak up during public com-

ments at the beginning of every House session.

The articles of impeachment also include those in connection with the release of a federal inmate to massage the governor in January 2010, a sole-source ARRA management contract, non-appointment of a Supreme Court justice, non-remittance of full employer contribution to the now cash-strapped NMI Retirement Fund, and the governor's lack of action against his former attorney general Edward Buckingham.

At least 14 "yes" votes are needed in the 20-member House to impeach the governor, and at least six "yes" votes in the nine-member Senate to convict the governor.

So far, only eight House members have gone on the record to say they will vote "yes" to the impeachment resolution, seven of them co-authors of the resolution.

Rep. Ralph Demapan (Cov-Saipan), chairman of the Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee, said his panel has already received tons of documents from agencies that have something to do with the secretive 25-year power purchase agreement that Fitial signed off with Saipan Development LLC. Among the articles of impeachment are in connection with this \$190.8 million agreement.

He said formal investigation has started, and they will soon call in the governor, officials from the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., and the Office of the Attorney General.

Among other things, the JGO Committee would determine whether the PPA is a "public indebtedness" in which case the Legislature's approval is needed. A lack of transparency is also being questioned, along with the sole-sourcing of such a major agreement that commits the CNMI for 25 years.



# Fitial files complaint on fake Twitter account

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial lodged a formal complaint yesterday against the person or persons currently using his name and his official position as governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands on the Twitter social network.

In a letter to Alicia A.G. Lim-

tiaco, U.S. Attorney for the Districts of Guam and the NMI, Fitial wrote, "Please be advised that I have not now nor ever established a Twitter account in my name; I have not now nor ever authorized anyone from my staff to establish a Twitter account in my name; I have not

now nor ever authorized anyone from my family to establish a Twitter account in my name; and I am concerned that the person who is impersonating to be me, as the CNMI governor, may cause panic in the

community by posting false statements which may be taken to be official statements from me or my office."

The governor's complaint comes after media reports exposed the existence of a Twitter

account bearing the governor's name and photo as the alleged owner.

"I am therefore respectfully requesting that your office, in collaboration with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, to

include the local and federal Department of Homeland Security, initiate an investigation in order to determine the identities of the person or persons responsible for this Twitter account and prosecute them to the fullest extent of the laws," stated Fitial. (*Office of the Governor*)

## DPL joins Tasi motion to reconsider the court's bond requirement ruling

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
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REPORTER

The Department of Public Lands is supporting Tasi Tours & Transportation Inc.'s bid to have the Superior Court reconsider its ruling to allow five marine sports operators to post a lower bond in connection with their lawsuit against DPL.

Assistant attorney general Michael Wilt, counsel for DPL, asserts that the court order is internally inconsistent and leaves Tasi Tours, a concessionaire of DPL, effectively unsecured.

Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho had modified the bond to make it 97 percent unsecured, said Wilt in DPL's memorandum filed Tuesday in support of Tasi Tours' motions for reconsideration and clarification.

"Clarification is necessary to the DPL because the DPL is charged with the responsibility of enforcing the rights of Tasi Tours made pursuant to their concession agreement with the DPL," the government lawyer said.

DPL asked Camacho to reconsider his modification of the Rule 65(c) bond and clarify the scope of the preliminary injunction that he earlier issued.

Wilt said the preliminary injunction clearly allows the five marine sports operators to pick up "their customers (who have pre-purchased package tours including activities such as banana boat rides and parasailing)" on Managaha Island.

However, Wilt said, it is unclear what circumstances are encompassed by the term "their customers."

He said DPL infers the term "their customers" to mean tourists who, before landing on Managaha, purchased a water sports tour package from the five marine sports operators, which includes transport to and from Managaha.

"However, as written, the term could be construed to encompass a broader class of tourists," he pointed out.

For these reasons, Wilt said, DPL wants the court clarify the scope of the preliminary injunction.

Last week, Tasi Tours, through counsel Rexford C. Kosack, asked for clarification of Camacho's Aug. 22, 2012, order about the bond for the preliminary injunction.

Kosack said that Camacho issued a preliminary injunc-

tion without giving the security for the payment of all the damages that might be suffered by Tasi Tours—contrary to Rule 65(c) of the Rules of Civil Procedure.

He said the giving of merely a promise to pay is the antithesis of giving "security." A signed acknowledgment, Kosack pointed out, is not security.

On the request for clarification, Kosack said what they understand with the injunction order is that it permits the five marine sports operators to drop off and pick up "their customers" on Managaha Island.

"What is unclear, however, is whether they may pick up customers who were brought to Managaha by another tour company and then take them on Managaha-to-Managaha tours or Managaha-to-Saipan tours," he said.

In response to Tasi Tours' motions for reconsideration and clarification, the five marine sports operators, through counsel Mark A. Scoggins, stated that the filing of the motions is part of Tasi Tours' strategy "to litigate them to death."

Last Aug. 23, the five marine sports operators resumed business operations after paying \$60,172.95 in unsecured bond on top of the \$1,861.05 cash that they had already posted as bond requirement.

The operators—Island Marine Sports Inc., Aquatic Marine Co. Inc., Automarine Inc., Seahorse Inc., and BSEA Inc.—signed an acknowledgment of their responsibility for the unsecured amount.

The operators each promised to be bound unto DPL and Tasi Tours in an amount not to exceed \$12,034.59 in the event defendants are found to have been wrongfully enjoined and are able to prove in the lawsuit actual damages.

The preliminary injunction that Camacho issued last July 19 granted the marine sports operators' request to maintain the status quo until their lawsuit against DPL is decided on its merits.

The operators are suing DPL to invalidate the department's "rule" promulgated on Dec. 13, 2011, and June 14, 2012, pertaining to Managaha access.

That "rule" prohibits marine sports operators from picking up customers on Managaha Island for their tours unless they are Tasi Tours or its subcontractors.

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**  
clarissa\_david@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Mariana Islands Nature Alliance is looking for restaurants that want to become environmental stewards by taking part in their "Eat Out for the Environment" initiative, which is now on its second year.

Eat Out for the Environment aims to encourage the community to eat out on a certain date at select restaurants that have

agreed to donate a portion of their revenue on that date to the community-based, nonprofit environmental group.

Proceeds from the project help support and sustain MINA's community projects such as the Marine Debris Program and the Tasi Watch Program.

Executive director Sam Sablan said that they are targeting the Eat Out for the Environment date anytime between September and October.

"In that sense, we're hoping to support the economy by helping promote business establishments that join our effort, and encouraging the community to support businesses that support the environment," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

Sablan said they are already preparing for the event and are hopeful that they would attract more establishments to become part of the initiative this year.

Last year, participating res-

taurants included Aoi Restaurant at Kanoa Resort Saipan, Chambre Restaurant at Fiesta Resort & Spa, Shirley's Restaurant, 360 Revolving Restaurant, Shenanigans, and Naked Fish.

"We're hopeful that it's going to succeed another year," added Sablan.

To join the Eat Out for the Environment or for more information, call 233-REEF (7333) or email minaoutreach@gmail.com.

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# Rota lawmakers OK \$20,000 for patients, other programs

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
haidee\_eugenio@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Rota Legislative Delegation passed with an amendment Tuesday a local bill appropriating \$20,000 in poker license fees for Rota patients, scholars, and other programs.

Sen. Juan Ayuyu (Ind-Rota), chairman of the Rota Legislative Delegation, said the amendment redistributes the

\$2,000 previously appropriated as partial payment of the Rota Casino Gaming Commission's \$290,000 debt to the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation.

Rep. Teresita Santos (Ind-Rota), author of House Local Bill 17-88, originally appropriated the \$2,000 for the Saipan delegation as a "show of good faith."

But during Tuesday after-

noon's session of the Rota Legislative Delegation, Ayuyu announced that SNILD chair Rep. Ray Tebuteb (R-Saipan) agreed with Ayuyu's request to have the \$2,000 used instead for Rota's other programs such as patient subsistence allowance and scholarship.

HLB 17-88 passed by a vote of 3-0. Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) was absent, owing to the limited flight

from Rota after Freedom Air's 30-seater aircraft encountered mechanical problems on Saturday. As of Tuesday, there's no telling when Freedom Air will be able to fix the aircraft.

But Freedom Air-Saipan manager Dennis Cruz said they are currently using their 5-seater aircraft to accommodate passengers who had already bought tickets for the bigger aircraft.

"So right now we are not taking reservations for this small aircraft," Cruz said.

Ayuyu and the rest of the Rota delegation are hoping that the Commonwealth Development Authority will accommodate Freedom Air's loan request of \$600,000.

Freedom Air applied for a \$2.9 million loan, but CDA approved only \$900,000 in March this year. Freedom Air said the

amount is not enough to cover priority expenditures, adding that its attempts to seek loans from private banks were unsuccessful because of lack of asset/collateral to back up the loan proposal.

In July, Freedom Air spokesperson Amjad Farhoud said the interisland carrier needs an additional \$600,000 loan from CDA to allow it to continue its operations for the next six months.

## CNMI to join Int'l Coastal Cleanup on Sept. 14

By CLARISSA V. DAVID  
clarissa\_david@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Volunteers representing government agencies, civic organizations, and students in the CNMI are expected to join millions of others throughout the world in the largest international effort to clean up beaches and other coastal areas.

The 27th Annual International Coastal Cleanup is slated for Friday, Sept. 14, and the CNMI Coastal Resources Management is calling on the community to

support this event which promotes trash-free seas and helps raise awareness of the importance of proper waste disposal.

"It's really easy to throw litter on the ground and not think about it but that fact is that it goes to our beaches and our oceans. Trash keeps traveling. So if we can protect the land, we can protect the oceans and the marine life," said Nicole Schafer, CRM education and outreach coordinator who is at the helm of the International Coastal Cleanup event.

The International Coastal Cleanup is the world's largest volunteer effort to help protect oceans and waterways, and is coordinated internationally by the nonprofit ocean advocacy organization Ocean Conservancy.

Schafer said yesterday that while the coastal cleanup is set for a Friday, those who want to participate in the event but cannot make it on that day due to work or other reasons can still be accommodated the next day.

"Saturday can be an option but initially, we'll be pushing for one

big event on Friday," she said.

Schafer noted that the annual coastal cleanup gets a lot of "repeats" or volunteers who have taken part in the event more than once.

"We always have schools and organizations signing up and we appreciate that," she said. In fact, a number of government offices have already registered for the upcoming cleanup.

Although targeted areas for the annual event are popular beaches like Paupau, Micro, and Laolao, as well as the Gara-

pan Fishing Base, which is a launching pad for small boating vehicles, Schafer said that volunteers can also choose their own sites to clean up.

Over the past years, millions of volunteers from more than 150 countries and locations join in the International Coastal Cleanup efforts. Of these countries, U.S. has the most number of volunteers, followed by the Philippines, Canada, India, and the Dominican Republic, according to the Ocean Conservancy website.

Schafer disclosed that for 2011, a total of 6,328 lbs of trash in 420 bags were collected in the CNMI, with soda cans and cigarette butts

at the top of the list.

Schafer, who arrived on island last July, said she is enjoying the island where people are friendly and have respect for their natural resources "and that makes my job easier."

She urged the public to join next week's coastal cleanup. CRM will provide the materials for the cleanup while the Department of Public Works will provide the receptacles and do the weighing.

"It will take all the help we can get to protect our ocean and it's a great awareness event," added Schafer.

To volunteer or for more information, call 664-8300 or 8305.

## Latest Consumer Price Index now out

The Department of Commerce's Central Statistics Division released yesterday the 2nd Quarter 2012 Consumer Price Index publication, which includes the indices from the 1st Quarter of 2011 to date.

The department delayed the release of Saipan, Tinian, and

Rota's First Quarter 2011 to First Quarter 2012 due to the complexities of data collections, calculations, data reviews, coupled with the austerity measure challenges; capacity and resources. The collection process requires coordination between the Saipan, Rota, and Tinian

teams as well as with the local vendors whose items are part of the overall "basket" of goods.

The statistical information reflected in this publication contains a wealth of information that measures quarterly changes in prices of a "basket" of goods and services, which are repre-

sentative of purchases by private households in the CNMI.

To ensure representation of the basket is reflective of current purchasing pattern of households, the CPI was rebased after the 2005 Household Income and Expenditure Survey and the base year adjusted to 4th Quarter 2008. These changes help maintain the integrity of the CPI index, providing the people of CNMI with a more reliable measure of the changes in the cost of living.

This publication also presents results for the islands of Rota and Tinian, where price collection commenced in the 1st quarter of 2010. Included, are comparable graphs between the islands depicting goods of significance in the households.

"We are grateful for the long awaited CPI report as this will aid our NAP negotiations. However, with our ongoing discussions with the Department of Commerce, we hope to access a more detailed CPI pull-out report that will focus strictly on qualified consumable items under NAP," said DCCA Secretary Melvin Faisao.

The department acknowledges the contributions of the many participating establishments for allowing the collection of prices on a quarterly basis for the selected items within the CNMI CPI. With their continued cooperation and assistance, the department will continue to publish the CNMI CPI to account for the changes in the prices of commodities consumed by people in the CNMI.

The CPI publication was

made possible with the funding support of the Department of Interior's Office of Insular Affairs and the technical assistance and contributions of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community's Dr. Gerald Haberkorn and his staff Chris Ryan.

The department also commends the staff at the Central Statistics Division in Saipan, and the Resident Commerce directors and staff on Rota and Tinian for their hard work and dedication in publishing this product.

The 2nd Quarter 2012 Consumer Price Index Publication may be accessed via the department's website at [www.commerce.gov.mp](http://www.commerce.gov.mp). (Office of the Governor)

### Saipan Seventh-day Adventist Clinic

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welcome back

**Dr. Stephen and  
Karyl Fisher**

**Open House  
at SDA Clinic**

**11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.  
Friday, Sept. 7, 2012**



### COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS COMMONWEALTH ELECTION COMMISSION

#### Registration Public Announcement

This is to inform all individual concern that the last day to register to vote in the CNMI for the November 6th, 2012 General Election is Friday, September 7th, 2012. Individuals who wish to register must be, on the date of the election, is 18 years of age or older, is domiciled in the Commonwealth, is a resident in the Commonwealth and has resided in the Commonwealth for 120 days prior to the election, is not serving a sentence for a felony, has not been declared by a court to be of unsound mind, and is either a citizen or national of the United States. You must provide either a copy of a valid U.S. Passport, naturalization documents or Certificate of Live Birth (Birth Certificate) when registering. To register, please visit the Commonwealth Election Commission office in Susupe on Saipan, on Tinian, contact Commissioner Donald Hofschneider at 433-9292 or Commissioner Juan Santos at 433-9292 and on Rota, Commissioner Leilani Manglona at 532-9488 or Commissioner Josepha Barcinas at 532-2656. Office hours for the Commonwealth Election Commission (Saipan) are 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday to Friday, except holidays. On the last day of registration, Friday, September 7th, the Commission will remain open until 6:00 p.m. Individuals residing off-island may download the registration packet to register. Off-island registration packet must mailed from outside the Commonwealth and must be post marked no later than the closing date of September 7th, 2012 for the commission to accept their registration. Individuals who wish to register are urged to visit the commission before the closing date. For more information, you may contact the commission at (670) 664-8680 or visit our website at <http://votecnmi.gov.mp>.

### COMMUNITY BRIEFS

#### Memorial park calendar

The following are the September schedule of events at the American Memorial Park:

■ Sept. 7: First Friday Film, 6:30pm, *End of the Line*

■ Sept. 19, Wednesday: International Talk Like a Pirate celebration, 5pm

■ September, any day: Talk Like a Pirate Month Curriculum based team-building programs

Call for reservations; 234-7207 Ext. 2020 Ranger Nancy Kelchner

■ Saturdays (Sept. 1, 8, 15, 22): Let's Move—movies and activities, 2pm – 6pm

Visitors Center open every day from 9am to 5pm, free. (PR)

#### MHS Class of '83 sets meeting

The MHS Class of 1983 would like to invite everyone to join us with our general meeting this Friday, Sept. 14, 2012, at Beach Road Pavilion, Garapan, 7pm. If you have any question, call Tonnei Camacho at 483-9665. (PR)



# The 1st Northern Frontier Summit

*Pioneering Re-Development in the Northern Frontier:  
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**September 6, 2012 • 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. • Fiesta Resort & Spa Azucena I & II**





# High Court affirms transfer of property's title

On Wednesday, Sept. 5, 2012, the Commonwealth Supreme Court issued a ruling in *Estrellita S. Ada v. Patrick M. Calvo*, affirming the trial court's order requiring Calvo to transfer title in the family residence to his former spouse Ada, as trustee for the parties' children, in accordance with the parties' divorce agreement.

Ada and Calvo married in July 1988. During their marriage they had three children. In 1999, Ada filed for divorce in the Commonwealth Superior Court. In December 2000, Ada and Calvo signed the divorce agreement, which, among other things, called for Calvo to pay Ada \$20,000 in four installments in return for Ada's agreement to disclaim entitlement to various items of marital prop-

erty. If Calvo failed to make these installment payments, the agreement required Calvo to transfer title to the family residence to Ada, to hold as trustee for the parties' children until the youngest child reached 18. The parties cohabited after the divorce for roughly four years, during which Calvo made no installment payments but routinely provided Ada with money.

After the parties separated for a second time, Ada filed a petition with the trial court, noting that Calvo had not made the installment payments and that the court should, therefore, transfer title in the family residence to Ada as trustee. Calvo filed an opposition, arguing that the various payments he made to Ada during their period of reconciliation satisfied the \$20,000 debt. The trial court

rejected Calvo's argument, reasoning that the payments during cohabitation reflected "commonly shared expenses of a cohabiting couple." The trial court then ordered Calvo to transfer title in the residence to Ada and Calvo appealed.

On appeal, the Supreme Court affirmed the trial court on all grounds. The High Court analyzed 8 CMC Section 1311, which governs custody, support, and property distribution in divorce situations. The court held that while the statute allows for modification of custody and support orders, it does not allow modification of property distributions, reaffirming a prior opinion of the Supreme Court, *Reyes v. Reyes*, 2001 MP 13. The court also rejected Calvo's argument that another provi-

sion of the agreement allowed the court to modify the property distribution, holding that the provision involved enforcement rather than modification. Finally, the court rejected an argument from Calvo that the trial court has general equitable authority to modify property distributions over the objection of one party. The court held that "trial court may not, over the objection of one party to the agreement, modify a property distribution integrated into a divorce decree in the absence of statutory authority or exceptional circumstances not present in this case."

The Supreme Court's full opinion is *Estrellita S. Ada v. Patrick M. Calvo*, 2012 MP 11, and can be found at [http://www.cnmilaw.org/supreme\\_12.htm](http://www.cnmilaw.org/supreme_12.htm). (NMI Judiciary)

## Journalists, enter tuna stories to win trip to PH

**MAJURO, Marshall Islands**—The Parties to the Nauru Agreement office invites all journalists working in the PNA countries to submit their best stories about tuna to be in the running to win a chance to report from this year's Tuna Commission meeting in December.

PNA Director Dr Transform Aqorau said, "The recent Communicating Tuna workshop for journalists in PNA countries has stimulated more interest in reporting on

tuna. All the stories from this workshop are being submitted to the PNA office for judging. We want to give other journalists who were not able to attend the workshop the chance to send the PNA their best stories on tuna. These stories will be judged by senior journalists and fisheries experts to decide whose work is outstanding. The outstanding journalists will be given the chance to travel to the Philippines in December to report on the meeting of the Western and Central

Pacific Fisheries Commission."

Entry is open to any working journalist (print, radio or television) in the PNA countries: Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Tuvalu. The winning entrant/s will be provided with fully funded travel from their PNA home country to the Philippines to report on the meeting.

To enter send weblinks or text or audio/visual files of stories on tuna conservation or de-

velopment published or broadcast from Aug. 1 to Oct. 1 to [pnatuna@pnatuna.com](mailto:pnatuna@pnatuna.com) by Oct. 1. Entry can be a single story or multiple stories.

Journalists who participated in the recent "Communicating Tuna" workshop for leading journalists in the PNA countries will automatically be entered in the competition as long as they submit their works to competition coordinator Anouk Ride.

Stories entered into the competition may also be featured on the PNA website. (PNA)

### FIRST FRIDAY FILMS

## *The End of the Line* explores impact of overfishing

First Friday Films presents *The End of the Line*. The film will be shown on Sept 7, 2012, at 6:30pm at the American Memorial Park Visitor's Center as part of an ongoing monthly environmental film series.

*The End of the Line*, the first major feature documentary film revealing the impact of overfishing on our oceans, had its world premiere at the Sundance Film Festival in the World Cinema Documentary Competition. In the film we see firsthand the effects of our global love affair with fish as food. It examines the imminent extinction of Bluefin tuna, brought on by increasing Western demand for sushi; the impact on marine life resulting in huge overpopulation of jellyfish; and the profound implications of a future world with no fish that would bring certain mass starvation. Filmed across the world—from the Straits of Gibraltar to the coasts of Senegal and Alaska to the Tokyo fish market—featuring top scientists, indigenous fishermen and fisheries enforcement officials, *The End of the Line* is a wake up call to the world.

First Friday Films is a monthly film series brought to you through a partnership with the National Park Service and the



*The End of the Line* is the first major feature documentary film revealing the impact of overfishing on oceans. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Division of Environmental Quality, with generous support from community groups. This particular film is provided by the Humanities Council.

For planning purposes, the movie runs about 80 minutes long. As always, First Friday Films is free and open to the public. For more information

about First Friday Films, check out [www.firstfridayfilmssaipan.blogspot.com](http://www.firstfridayfilmssaipan.blogspot.com) or email [fff-saipan@gmail.com](mailto:fff-saipan@gmail.com) to be added to the mailing list. (DEQ)

### BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS



Happy 21st birthday, Lea Masga! Hope your day proves to be everything you deserve and more! With love, Mom, Maya and TJ, Nikko, Angel and Lisa, Boom, Jovohni and Herbe. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy birthday greetings go out to Anthony "Tonnei" M. Camacho! Wishing you all the best and may you have many more birthdays to come. Greetings coming out from Mom, Junior, Katrina, and kids. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## Flashback

### A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Sept. 6, 2000

#### DPS cautions House against easing of gun control

Public Safety Commissioner Charles W. Ingram Jr. has recommended the inclusion of strict provisions in the proposed legislation that seeks to relax the use of handguns in the Northern Marianas. Sponsored by House Floor Leader Oscar M. Babauta, HB 12-212, which will amend the existing Weapons Control Act, hopes to lure resort developments offering shooting practice and target ranges. The House Committee on Commerce and Tourism said this is an incentive to attract major developers of so-called "shooting resorts" that will provide to tourists non-traditional activities such as target ranges for rifle competition and skeet shooting with shotguns.

#### CNMI to push for changes in MOU with feds

The CNMI government expects to continue its partnership agreement with the U.S. Department of Labor's Hour and Wage division, but it will press for changes to some of the terms, according to Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio. Labor and Immigration Secretary Mark Zachares and Herbert Soll flew last Sunday to San Francisco to negotiate with federal labor officials on possible renewal of a memorandum of understanding in regards to handling labor cases in the Commonwealth. "The MOU will be renewed. . . We have to amend some of the sections there," the governor told reporters yesterday when asked if he had any instruction to the two Cabinet officials.

Sept. 6, 2001

#### Report documents absence of enough local labor in NMI

Most industries in the Northern Marianas will continue to depend on nonresident labor due to the absence of adequate indigenous workers. An economic report released by the Bank of Hawaii disclosed that only 28 percent of Saipan's 54,541 population, or those 16 years and older, are U.S. citizens. Documenting the CNMI's continued reliance on foreign labor, the same report showed that about 22.6 percent of 46,183 people who are employed and actively seeking work are U.S. citizens. It added that 20.7 percent of 46,183 payroll workers on the islands are permanent residents, while all the rest are temporary foreign workers.

#### OSHA: Factories complying with federal safety standards

The US Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration yesterday said the inspections conducted on 22 garment factories on Saipan revealed that these firms comply with the existing federal safety standards for workers. The findings were echoed by Frank Strasheim, OSHA's Region IX director, who arrived on the island this week as part of the agency's thrust in enforcing safe working standards in different industries. "We found virtually no problems," said Strasheim. "Things have improved tremendously." Tan Holdings Corporation, which operates one of the biggest apparel factories on Saipan, was commended by the OSHA official. "I'm very impressed," Strasheim said. "Tan Holdings is doing quite well."

Sept. 6, 2002

#### Airport facility gets \$1M more

The Federal Aviation Administration released another \$1 million to the Commonwealth Ports Authority as additional funding assistance for the completion of its Aircraft Rescue Firefighting division. According to CPA Executive Director Carlos H. Salas, the new round of funding assistance brought FAA's total financial aid for the ARFF training facility to \$5 million. The ARFF training facility, geared to be the aviation and rescue training facility in the Pacific Region, is anticipated to start construction anytime soon, Salas added. He said the \$1 million additional fund will go a long way since additional structures would be constructed at the ARFF facility to accommodate participants from the Pacific region.

#### Military surplus gets a second chance

Once a militaryman, always a militaryman. Beyond the military barracks, however, Charles Ingram, the former Department of Public Safety commissioner on Saipan, is also the entrepreneur who established the Military Surplus shop on the island. Ingram opened the shop at its former location in San Jose, soon after arriving on Saipan four years ago following his appointment to the top police post. Military Surplus sells military equipment such as combat boots, ammo pouch, holsters, rucksacks (combat backpacks), tents, raincoats and BDUs (battle dress uniforms), among others.



# Pacific nations’ women promised a better deal

## Rotary eyes catered Thanksgiving lunch for man’amko

By CLARISSA V. DAVID  
clarissa\_david@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Rotary Club of Saipan is exploring the possibility of having their annual *Man’amko* Thanksgiving Luncheon catered out this year, according to Community Services director Curtis Dancoe.

Dancoe said Tuesday that the extra time would allow Rotarians to plan for a skit with a Thanksgiving theme, which the island’s senior citizens can enjoy.

Traditionally, the Rotary Club of Saipan hosts a sumptuous Thanksgiving luncheon as a treat to the congregates at the Aging Center. The Rotarians themselves serve the prepared food.

“We’re looking at getting the luncheon catered out so that we can focus more on the *man’amko* and be a little bit more interactive with them,” he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Dancoe said they will start preparing for a simple production to be staged during the actual luncheon.

He described the play as “funny” and “lighthearted” since the Rotarians are not professional thespians.

“Hopefully, we can get the *man’amko* to participate since they’re pretty good thespians themselves. We want to come up with a skit and share that with them,” added Dancoe.

Besides the luncheon, the Rotary Club of Saipan also holds a raffle drawing for the senior citizens.

By CATHERINE WILSON  
INTER PRESS SERVICE NEWS AGENCY

**BRISBANE**—Leaders of 15 Pacific Island nations have pledged to remove barriers to women’s economic empowerment, end violence against women and pave the way for their increased political representation, at the conclusion of the 43<sup>rd</sup> Pacific Islands Forum in Rarotonga in the Cook Islands, last week. The meeting was also attended by the Executive Director of UN Women, Michelle Bachelet.

The Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, Tuiloma Neroni Slade, stated at the opening ceremony that “this year is an occasion to acknowledge the strength, insight, determination and wisdom of Pacific women, past and present. We need to continue with greater clarity to support and encourage concerted efforts under way to effectively address the entrenched disadvantages that many women face....”

The Pacific Islands Forum is an inter-governmental organization of 16 independent and self-governing Pacific states, in a region with a population of approximately 10 million, which aims to advance peace, security and economic prosperity in the region.

Forum members include Australia, Papua New Guinea and Palau in the west through to Tonga, Niue and Cook Islands in the South Pacific Ocean. New Caledonia and French Polynesia are associate members, while American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Tokelau and Wallis and Fortuna have observer status.

The theme of this year’s annual meeting of leaders was

“Large Ocean Island States: the Pacific Challenge,” highlighting the central importance of the Pacific Ocean to the cultural identities and sustainable livelihoods of islanders. Issues discussed included the status of women, climate change, the outcomes of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), management of Pacific fisheries, infrastructure development, regional trade, education and health.

During a speech to the Forum on Aug. 30, Bachelet, said: “Women and girls are key to meeting the many challenges of sustainable development here in the Pacific, as in the rest of the world. Sustainable development requires women’s rights, equal opportunities and women’s full participation.

“This is something that Pacific leaders have recognized,” she said. “The Pacific Plan, endorsed by leaders at the Pacific Islands Forum meeting in 2005, explicitly cites gender equality as a key element in achieving sustainable development.”

The new Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration, endorsed at this year’s Forum, outlines commitments to implement national policies to

improve the status of women. Pledges include temporary special measures to accelerate women’s equal participation in government and promoting their senior appointments in the private sector, reforming legislation that impedes equal employment opportunities and pay conditions, and supporting female entrepreneurs with financial services and training.

Women’s political representation is 4.3 percent in Kiribati, 3.8 percent in Vanuatu and 3 percent in the Marshall Islands. Papua New Guinea has three female members of parliament, while the Solomon Islands have one and Tuvalu currently has none.

Joanna Hayter, executive director of the International Women’s Development Agency based in Australia, said that the commitment of Pacific leaders “can make a real difference in addressing both power and empowerment in relation to women’s rights and gender equality.”

Forum leaders further vowed to implement legislation to protect women from violence with significant punishment for perpetrators and to develop health, counseling and legal services for those who have experienced abuse. According to UN Wom-

en, 68 percent of women aged 15-49 years in Kiribati and 64 percent in the Solomon Islands have experienced physical or sexual violence.

Leaders have agreed to report on progress toward the declaration’s goals at future annual Forum gatherings.

Other significant outcomes of this year’s Pacific leaders’ convention were the launch of the Regional Legislative and Regulatory Framework for Deep Sea Minerals Exploration, which sets guidelines for Pacific Island nations to manage the sustainable use of ocean resources, and the opening of the world’s largest 1.1 million square kilometre

Cook Islands Marine Park.

Eight new maritime boundary agreements were signed by the Cook Islands, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Tuvalu and Tokelau, paving the way for better governance of overlapping national maritime territories. There are 48 shared national boundaries in the Pacific Islands and previously only 21 were subject to treaty.

Leaders also acknowledged the urgency of boosting progress on the Millennium Development Goals before 2015 with special focus needed on equitable economic growth, educational outcomes, child and maternal health, as well as gender parity.

### NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING for Blue Continent Communications

The public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Ms. Rosemond B. Santos is proposing to install a 75 ft. high communication tower/ antenna in the Papago area on Track #22763. This area is zoned as Rural. Property owner is Ms. Maria B. Santos.

**Date: September 20, 2012, Thursday**  
**Time: 5:00 pm**  
**Place: Zoning Board Conference Room, 2nd flr, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan**

The above application may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan. Comments on the project may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments shall be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office no later than 4:30pm, September 19, 2012. Written comments may also be submitted via email to [therese.ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp](mailto:therese.ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp), via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 or delivered to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & Saipan Zoning Law of 2008).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Board Chairman

### NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING for

#### ITS Corporation (ITS H.E. Rental)

The public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Mr. Denny Jin is proposing to operate a Vehicle and Heavy Equipment Repair, General with storage and office spaces. This proposal will be located on Chalan Pale Arnold (middle road) next to Quartermaster Road, on Track #22703-8. This area is zoned as Mixed Commercial. Property owner is Mr. Jose C. Ayuyu.

**Date: September 20, 2012, Thursday**  
**Time: 5:00 pm**  
**Place: Zoning Board Conference Room, 2nd flr, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan**

The above application may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan. Comments on the project may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments shall be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office no later than 4:30pm, September 19, 2012. Written comments may also be submitted via email to [therese.ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp](mailto:therese.ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp), via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 or delivered to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

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/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Board Chairman

### NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING for

#### Tia’s Child Care & Tutoring Services

The public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Ms. Salome R. Limes is proposing to operate a Day Care center in Kagman III on lot 011-G-607. This area is zoned as Village Residential. Applicant is the property owner.

**Date: September 20, 2012, Thursday**  
**Time: 5:00 pm**  
**Place: Zoning Board Conference Room, 2nd flr, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan**

The above application may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan. Comments on the project may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments shall be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office no later than 4:30pm, September 19, 2012. Written comments may also be submitted via email to [therese.ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp](mailto:therese.ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp), via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 or delivered to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & Saipan Zoning Law of 2008).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Board Chairman

### Notice of Zoning Board Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Zoning Board will be held on Thursday, September 20, 2012 at 5:00 PM, Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten DanDan Commercial Bldg., Saipan (Tel: 234-9661 • Fax: 234-9666 • e-mail: [www.zoning.gov.mp](mailto:www.zoning.gov.mp))

#### A. Preliminary Matters

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of July 12, 2012 minutes
5. Public Comments (not related to files for discussion under item B. Public Hearings)

#### B. Public Hearings

1. Tia's Child Care & Tutoring Services (#2011-4240): Ms. Salome R. Limes is proposing to operate a Day Care center in Kagman III on lot 011-G-607. This area is zoned as Village Residential. Applicant is the property owner.
2. ITS Corporation/ ITS H.E. Rental (#2011-4347): Mr. Denny Jin is proposing to operate a Vehicle and Heavy Equipment Repair, General with storage and office spaces. This proposal will be located on Chalan Pale Arnold (middle road) next to Quartermaster Road, on Track #22703-8. This area is zoned as Mixed Commercial. Property owner is Mr. Jose C. Ayuyu.
3. Blue Continent Communication (#2011-4488): Ms. Rosemond B. Santos is proposing to install a 75 ft. high communication tower/ antenna in the Papago area on Track #22763. This area is zoned as Rural. Property owner is Ms. Maria B. Santos.

#### C. Communications/ Reports

#### D. Old Business.

1. Update on the proposed Saipan Zoning Law of 2012
2. Update on the proposed local bill for Saipan Adult Gambling Machine Businesses (Pokers)

#### E. New Business

1. Office operations report

#### F. Executive (Closed) Session

#### G. Miscellaneous: Other Matters, Announcements, Next Meeting, Adjourn.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact Therese T. Ogumoro at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Zoning Board Chairman



# Opinion

Hafa Adai!

## Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER  
Volume XXII, Issue No. 212Published daily at 2/F JP Center,  
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI  
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR  
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

### EDITORIAL

## Time running out to avert economic disaster

Last week, just in time for the conventions of the nation's two major political parties, the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office sent a message that significantly raises the stakes regarding the fiscal crisis looming at the end of the year.

If Congress takes no action to stave off tax increases and automatic budget cuts scheduled to take effect on Jan. 1, the CBO declared, the economy could plunge into a recession. Reading between the lines, it's clear that the CBO believes there's no "could" about it—bet on a recession and all its accompanying miseries if Congress doesn't take action to stop the upcoming disaster.

The customary summer report of the CBO predicted the jobless rate would remain above 8 percent for the rest of the year because it's too late to do anything about that, and that the federal budget deficit for the year that ends Sept. 30 would be \$1.1 trillion.

That's nothing to cheer about. But what's coming up at the end of the year—the so-called "fiscal cliff"—is even worse.

Under current law, if Congress and the president can't come up with a fix, unemployment would rise almost a full point from the current 8.3 percent to 9 percent. Total economic output would shrink at an alarming rate—2.9 percent in the first half of the year. This is much darker than the earlier forecast by the CBO back in January.

The "fiscal cliff" is the result of the stop-gap budget deal Congress and President Obama reached last year in order to avoid another crisis and allow the government to pay its bills. It mandates serious belt-tightening in the form of government spending, including expenditures in defense and public services that would be felt right away by many Americans. At the same time, new tax increases would come into play as the Bush tax cuts expire.

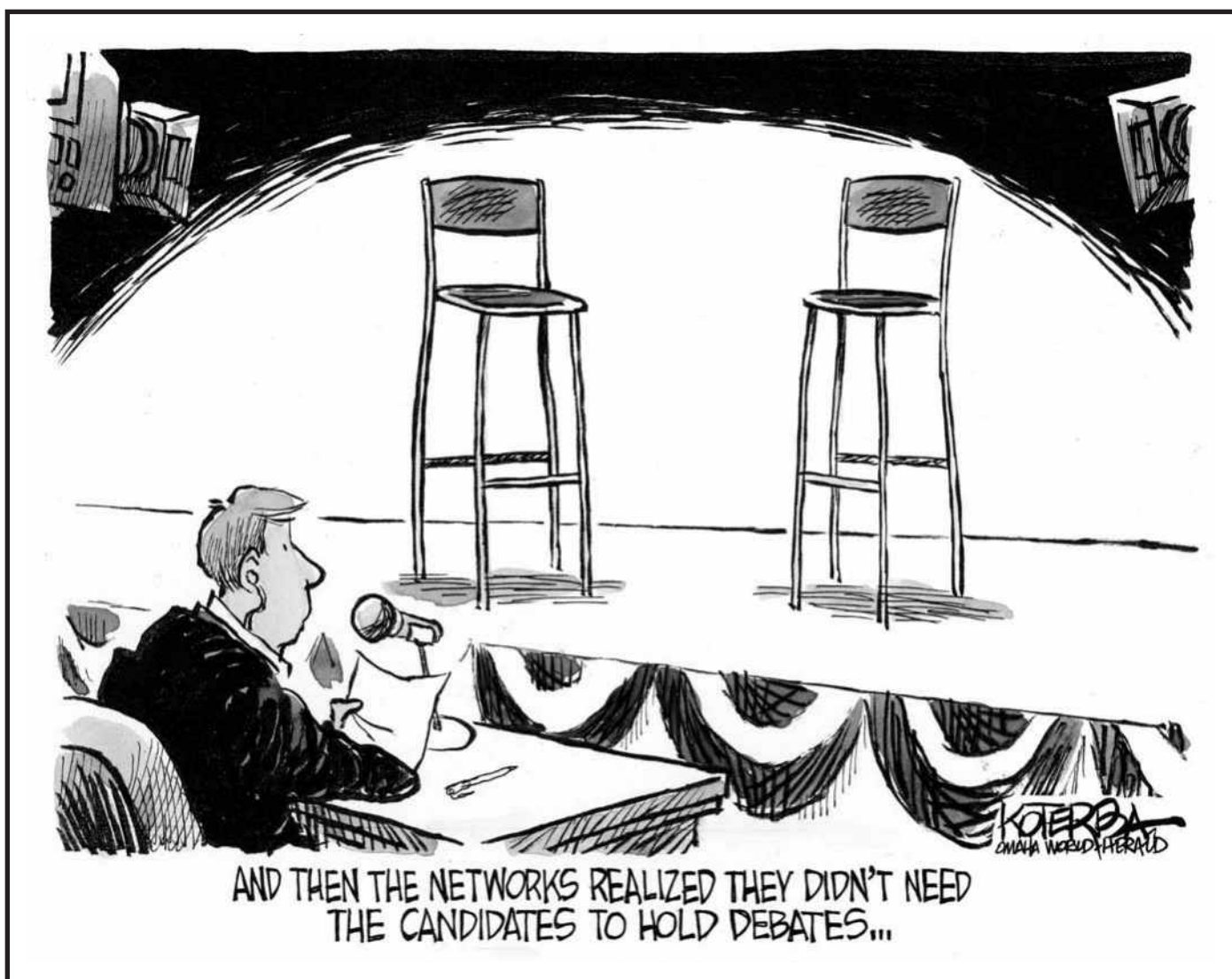
Despite the warning, the CBO report failed to bring the two parties any closer toward the negotiating table, where they can reach a workable agreement to give Americans—particularly the private sector—some certainty over where the economy is headed.

If Democrats and Republicans refuse to budge, there is no way for Americans to make a sensible plan for the future. Hire more employees? Invest? Borrow to expand the business? Stand pat and do nothing? Sell the house? There's no way to guess what's coming.

Lawmakers have to decide. They can allow current policy to go into effect, which means tax increases for everyone and spending cuts that would reverse the recovery. Or they can cancel the upcoming cuts and tax increases, which would increase the deficit.

Neither of those makes sense. The only practical alternative is for the parties to sit down like adults and hammer out a pragmatic plan that spreads the pain evenly and offers future deficit reduction and economic growth. But there's not much time left to make a deal. If Democrats and Republicans are determined to have a "Thelma and Louise" moment, they will take the economy, and the American people, over the cliff with them.

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## God in the headlines

Gov. Ben Fitial's speech in the GOP convention proudly announced that we are a people who believed in God. It got the theological term G-O-D in the headlines.

It was not too long ago that George Zimmermann in defense of his shooting Trayvon Martin claimed that he was just fulfilling the "will of God."

One of our Republican congressmen in Texas claimed that the weakening of the Judeo-Christian tradition in the country caused the Aurora shooting. He said: "Some of us happen to believe that when our founders talked about guarding our virtue and freedom, that that was important. Whether it's John Adams saying our Constitution was made only for moral and religious people ... Ben Franklin, only a virtuous people are capable of freedom, as nations become corrupt and vicious they have more need of masters ... We have been at war with the very pillars, the very foundation of this country."

There you have it, straight from the horses' mouth.

An old friend for whom we light a candle as she struggles with the effects of cancer wrote recently that having God on her side is no guarantee that the cancer will go away. She said that some of her friends who had God on their side were not spared from the disease's death knell. Her faith, she affirmed, is not dependent on the disease suddenly fading into the sunset.

My friend's theological lucidity might be closer to authentic Christian piety than the irrelevant (some say, glib) access of our politicians and seekers-of-the-easy-way-out to the name of divinity.

We shall not engage in hair splitting on divinity's definition. In fact, the religious usage of the Anglo-Saxon term has fallen in disfavor as it is now used to refer to a childish reliance on a super figure in the by-and-by, hardly reflecting the spiritual reference the term had in the Judeo-Christian-Islamic traditions.

The Jewish YHWH is used to refer to the trustworthy reality of the Way Life Is. Jesus virtually killed the term when he identified his freedom to choose as understood only in the light of his decision that "the Father and I are one." He was crucified for the claim. The Prophet M forbade his faithful from any reference to supreme providence, using the term "Allah," etymologically meaning "the no-thing." In our time, God is commonly used as the exit door out of this world into an illusory other Other World.

So, what does Uncle Ben mean by claiming to belong to a "people who believed in God?" Or, are we just irreverent by raising the question?

Belief in God is hardly the issue in our time, the GOP notwithstanding. Our ability to make decisions—sensible, realistic, and practical—is. I am not just referring to the state of our spirit as a people in the CNMI and in the United States. I am pointing to our global sense of self-sufficiency, self-reliance, and self-confidence,

By JAIME R. VERGARA

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Former PSS teacher Jaime Vergara now teaches at Hang Gong Hang Tian Da Zue, Shenyang Aerospace University and is currently traveling in north Inner Mongolia in the prefecture of Hulunbeier.



and being it in our economic, political, and cultural choices. We have lost our nerves, avoiding the capacity to lucid thought, our ability for compassion, our covenants of mutual care, and our nature to sense the wonder of living, that is being challenged by the easy retreat to deity.

The United States of America is a work in progress, allowing itself to convulse in a quadrennial ritual of presidential elections, this year between the Paul Ryan/Mitt Romney-Joe Biden/Barack Obama Lie-athon Marathon Confabulation Contest (tnx to Brad Blanton for the terms)!

One party takes its name from the Latin *Res publica*, faithful to the sense of *res*=property belonging to the *publica*=public in the Roman understanding that the public are the privileged male landlords of the realm. A republic "of the people, by the people, and for the people" would make Abe Lincoln a socialist!

The other favors the democratic tradition hailed by the French in their *liberté, égalité, fraternité* triune cry. In our case, we have consigned the democratic impulse to elections, to the choice of representatives who decide on our behalf, rather than the individual decisions on deeds toward a common economy, communal polity, and diverse cultures. To the Democrats' favor, their platform quietly removed any reference to God.

It is the realization that the ritual of elections and representative democracy has become a systemic downfall in our experiment at governance. It led to a global economy with entrenched elite powers that make polity choices, resulting in a jingoistic culture that thinks itself to be supreme over all other understandings.

In that sense, Ben Fitial and Hillary Clinton sing to the same tune. The governor processes to the *Requiem* of a bygone medieval age, and Hillary taps to the *Te Deum* of military supremacy across the surface of the planet, reminiscent of Genghis Khan in the Mongolian grasslands. Ka-da-boom, ka-da-boom, la-di-la.

The late fellow cleric Gary Bradley, S.J., welcomed me to the CNMI more than a decade ago by saying: "You will find the people very religious. Whether they are spiritual, that is another question."

The economy has become our God, politics its subservient ally, and our culture, blandly spiritless. God is spirit. A thought.



**EDITORIAL POLICY**

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

## Power purchase agreement is a very bad deal

The recent discovery of the power purchase agreement between Saipan Development LLC and the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. as signed by Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and former attorney general Edward Buckingham has raised a lot of eyebrows and concerns recently in the CNMI. I for one was surprised. However, I was even more surprised after reading all the provisions in the 41-page document.

After reading this PPA, the first question I had was, "Why did the governor and former AG sign off on this agreement?" Did they feel that Saipan needed a 50-megawatt diesel power plant at a cost of over \$190 million for a 25-year period? Former executive director Abe Malae and the now acting executive director Alan Fletcher have both stated that Power Plant 1 in Lower Base is capable of meeting the demand load on Saipan and it is good for the next seven to 10 years if maintained properly and consistently. Did the governor and former AG know something that Mr. Malae, Mr. Fletcher, you, and I didn't know?

The other questions that came to mind were: "Why was this an exclusive agreement?" and "Why was it sole-sourced?" The best that I can theorize is that the answer to these questions is: "He did it because he can" under his emergency declaration, or ED. The ED gives him the power and authority without conforming to any statute or law of the CNMI. The governor had found a gaping hole under this ED to circumvent approval from the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission. CPUC decisions on CUC are rendered moot while the ED to CUC is in effect. The manner in which this agreement was consummated was done in secrecy and without regard. Given the magnitude of such a power plant project and what will this mean to you and me, the least the governor could have done was communicate this to the CNMI people who will be affected by such a transaction. I must say that I am not that surprised since this governor has never communicated anything to his people anyway.

Although the Aug. 3 power purchase agreement was signed during a period covered by an emergency declaration, an earlier March 27, 2012, Power Plant Development and Management Agreement was entered into when no emergency declaration was in effect. This agreement was entered into between the CNMI and SDLLC and signed by the governor, attorney general and SDLLC and grants SDLLC the exclusive right to develop, manage, operate, and maintain the new power plant. We are not supposed to know about this agreement because it's secret. **Section 6.12 of this agreement provides for "non-disclosure."** "The parties agree not to divulge to third parties the terms of this agreement or confidential information exchanged between the parties..."

I find it interesting that Mr. David Mahmood from Allegiance Capital Corp. and one who is involved in this secretive deal has come out publicly to state that claims of corruption in the process of negotiating the agreement "are entirely inaccurate and inappropriate." He went on to say that "We openly shared the information we developed and made a proposal which we deemed fair and equitable and in the best interest of the island of Saipan." I just wonder who did they openly share the information with? Was it just the governor and the former AG as I, other legislators, and even the Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos has stated that the signing of such an agreement was news to him. Mr. Fletcher indicated during our meeting at the Senate chamber that he was not in the loop as of July 10 of this year. I recalled that the lieutenant governor had also ordered an "economic analysis report" that was to be done by an independent consultant. To me this so-called economic analysis is unnecessary. The question the lieutenant governor should instead ask himself is, "Is this 50-megawatt power plant needed?" The answer to that is NO. This analysis is to be done by Economist.com, who is also the consultant to CUC. I am sure that Economist.com will tailor their analysis to the liking of the governor and the lieutenant governor

or else they won't be CUC consultants for very long. Again, and I know that I may be repeating myself, but Economist.com is the consulting firm who, when asked about five years ago at the governor's conference room as to what they thought about Power Plant 1 and in their professional opinion as to its value, their response was to put it on eBay and find out. This is the same consultant that continues to be retained by CUC and this administration. Unbelievable but sad!

So why then a 50-megawatt diesel power plant? We already have one of those in Power Plant 1. The Office of Insular Affairs under the U.S. Department of the Interior has granted or reprogrammed millions of dollars not just to maintain and repair Power Plant 1 but to work on the two stipulated orders that CUC has found itself entangled with. Recently the federal government gave the CNMI government around \$1.2 million for the digging and exploration of geothermal here on Saipan. Geothermal, this was Gov. Fitial's alternative renewable energy baby. What happened?

KUTH, a publicly held corporation in Australia with geothermal projects around the world, was given a "Notice of Intent to Award" the geothermal contract by former CUC executive director Abe Malae on Jan. 27, 2012. Companies such as KUTH and others were very encouraged by subsequent executive orders that stated that a renewable energy crisis exists and that "CUC has gone through the RFP process for several renewable energy projects which would bring some relief to high utility rates. These contracts must be brought to completion as soon as possible or customers will continue to suffer from high oil prices." This is on one of the "Whereas" clauses being repeated in most if not all of executive orders declared by this administration. I'm concerned that the reputation of KUTH and other companies out there may have been damaged and harmed by the failure of CUC

to proceed in good faith, but I am more concerned about the reputation of the CNMI government as time and time again it has acted recklessly and with disregard. Nowhere, in any ED for CUC, have I seen a crisis for Saipan Power Plant 1 or any mention of a need for a diesel power plant for Saipan. In fact the contract for PP4 or the PMIC contract was recently bought out because PP1 was more efficient and that it could carry the load demand for Saipan.

A few months ago a company from Virginia, Global Energy Corp., came out to Saipan to meet with the governor and legislators with regards to a "safe nuclear energy technology" or Genie as it's called. These individuals personally met with the governor who was rather excited about the technology. I thought at the time, "Wow, we have all these companies, reputable companies, interested in assisting us in our quest for alternative renewal (base-load) energy that will also bring down the electric rates for our people." I, for one, had hopes just as I'm sure most of you did. Finally, I thought there is light at the end of the tunnel until the bomb (PPA) came out of the closet!

A temporary restraining order was issued by Judge David Wiseman that has put a stop to any further proceeding on this PPA agreement. People will be made to answer on the matter. Among these people will be the governor himself.

### THE PPA ITSELF

I have taken the liberty of pinpointing some of the provisions in this contract so that you, the readers can decipher and decide if this is good for the CNMI.

**Recitals on page 1 under Background item B:** "..., pursuant to which Saipan Development LLC (SDLLC) was granted the exclusive right to develop a diesel generated electric power plant on the island of Saipan

*We will be tying ourselves for the next 25 years. Even if after two years and we decide that we have companies who can generate renewable alternative electricity at the lowest cost, the CNMI will not be able to avail of such energy because it will be added cost on*

By **FRANCISCO S. DELA CRUZ**

Special to the Saipan Tribune



*Rep. Francisco S. Dela Cruz is a member of the 17th CNMI House of Representatives. He is serving his third term in office.*

*top of what we would have to pay for this diesel generating plant.*

**Article 2.14 page 11:** "...CUC shall supply and deliver all fuel required during the start up testing, commissioning of the plant and all fuel required in the operation of the plant in the operation and maintenance period.

*We are trying to move away from the ever increasing fuel cost but this provision locks us all into purchasing the fuel and lubricants to run the plant for the life of this agreement.*

**Article 2.16 page 11 item (a):** The parties intend that the plant will produce electricity with a 10 percent or greater efficiency than currently obtained by CUC. Plant equipment, including the diesel engines, will be jointly selected by the parties in an effort to achieve the desired increase in efficiency.

*It appears to me that CUC and SDLLC will be promenading with each other in trying to find the right diesel generator. This is quite unusual as it appears that SDLLC does not know what it intends to sell to CUC (me and you). This also makes a detailed analysis of the proposal a little difficult since we do not know what we are buying.*

**Article 2.16 page 11 item (c):** Anything in this article 2.16 notwithstanding, failure to achieve the intended fuel efficiencies or cost reduction shall not constitute an event of default and neither party shall have the right to terminate this agreement as a result thereof.

*So if the plant begins to inefficiently operate, at what point then does CUC stop and say to SDLLC, it's wasting more fuel and we can't afford it anymore. There is no point because this means that efficient or not, SDLLC will not be in default.*

**Article 18.2 page 36:** ASSIGNMENT BY SDLLC. SDLLC may not, without prior consent of the Governor's Office of the CNMI, not to be unreasonably withheld or delayed, transfer all or any of its obligations under this agreement except that, for the purpose of arranging or rearranging financing for the project, SDLLC may assign or transfer to any person or entity providing financing to the project...

*SDLLC plans to assign the monthly \$636,091 payments to a bank or financial institution in order to obtain a loan to cover the construction of the new power plant and their profit. CUC will be obligated to make the monthly payments to the bank or financial institution.*

**Article 27.1 page 39 item (g):** The receipt by SDLLC of an opinion confirming that the operation by SDLLC of the plant will not constitute a public utility so as to require a franchise, certificate of public convenience, or other similar license which it requires to perform its obligations under this Agreement.

*My understanding of this provision is that SDLLC will be immune from being regulated by the CPUC. The governor and the former AG are saying that this is okay. SDLLC do not need to be regulated but others do.*

The above are just a few of the provisions I have picked out from amongst the many that indeed catch our attention and raise questions and red flags.

What then do I plan to do after raising these issues and sharing them with you? Well, I think that now is the time for the governor, Governor Fitial, to answer the questions.

Why did you enter and sign this PPA? Do you honestly believe that this PPA will help the people of the Commonwealth? What made you decide on a diesel power plant versus the renewable alternative energy of which one, geothermal, was at one time so dear to you? Why are you subjecting the people of the Commonwealth to stay the course on fossil fuel generating plants when all indications point to the ever increasing price of such fuel? Is this your way of showing the CNMI people and the world outside that you are the rule and that you make the decisions regardless of whether its right or wrong and whether the CNMI gets a black eye or not?






Mr. Governor, there is still time to save face. You will just have to admit that you made a mistake and that you take full responsibility for your actions.



Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

# The Weather

## 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
				
Mostly sunny with isolated showers. Light and variable winds.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Light and variable winds.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 87° ▼ 78°	▲ 87 ° ▼ 78°	▲ 87° ▼ 78°	▲ 87° ▼ 78°	▲ 87° ▼ 78°

### Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲ 85 ▼ 78
Palau	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 76
Yap	Showers	▲ 88 ▼ 77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲ 86 ▼ 78
Pohnpei	Showers	▲ 88 ▼ 75
Kosrae	Showers	▲ 88 ▼ 75
Majuro	Showers	▲ 87 ▼ 80

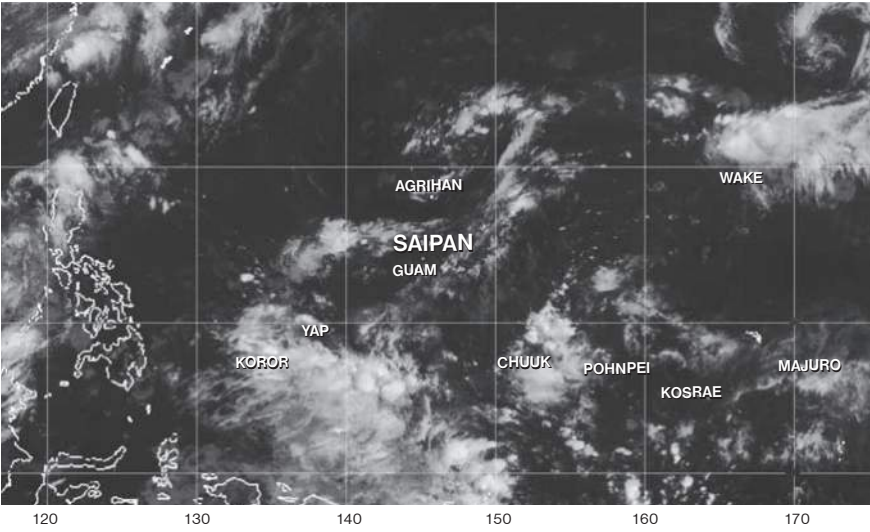
### Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲ 63 ▼ 55
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲ 76 ▼ 65
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲ 89 ▼ 82
Honolulu	Showers	▲ 86 ▼ 74
London	Mostly Sunny	▲ 70 ▼ 52
Los Angeles	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 86 ▼ 67
Manila	Thundershowers	▲ 88 ▼ 78
Melbourne	Showers	▲ 65 ▼ 46
Miami	Thundershowers	▲ 87 ▼ 76
New York	Thunderstorms	▲ 81 ▼ 70
Osaka	Thunderstorms	▲ 88 ▼ 75
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲ 73 ▼ 48
Pusan	Sunny	▲ 80 ▼ 66
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲ 86 ▼ 66
Salem	Sunny	▲ 89 ▼ 56
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲ 70 ▼ 57
Seoul	Sunny	▲ 81 ▼ 61
Tokyo	Thundershowers	▲ 90 ▼ 77
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲ 87 ▼ 74

### Tides

Saipan Harbor			
6:19 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
12:39 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet
6:22 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet
11:43 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet

### Yesterday's Satellite Image



### PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2012

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough extends southeastward from 14N130E across Yap state through a weak circulation near 7N1465E ending at another weak circulation near 2N152E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms near Yap and Koror are south of a line from 12N134E to 4N150E. A surface trough across the Mariana Islands extends northeastward from 12N143E to 20N150E then through a weak circulation near 24N159E to beyond 25N170E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms west of Guam are within 125 miles of a line from 13N137E to 16N143E and within 150 miles of a line from 12N146E to 18N151E and within 100 miles of a line from 22N147E to 23N154E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms near Wake island are within 200 miles of a line from 20N167E to 25N179E. A surface trough between Chuuk and Pohnpei is causing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms between 4N and 10N from 152E to 158E. Trade-wind convergence is triggering scattered showers across Tarawa and Butaritari within 75 miles of a line from 2N163E to 2N172E to 5N179E.

### Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:05 AM	6:26 PM
Friday	6:05 AM	6:25 PM
Saturday	6:05 AM	6:24 PM
Sunday	6:05 AM	6:23 PM
Monday	6:05 AM	6:22 PM

### Moonrise/Moonset

Today	10:10 PM	10:29 AM
Friday	10:56 PM	11:18 AM
Saturday	11:43 PM	12:08 PM
Sunday		12:57 PM
Monday	12:33 AM	1:45 PM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

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The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

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Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

#### For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 14, 2012

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)				ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			
UA5062	2:40am	3:10am	1, 3, 5	UA5062	3:40am	5:40am	1, 3, 5 via SPN
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7	UA5062	2:40am	4:15am	1, 3, 5 via ROP
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5	UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	Daily	UA5071	7:10am	8:00am	Daily
UA5074	11:30am	12:20pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA5073	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily	UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5078	6:50pm	7:40pm	Daily	UA5077	5:25pm	6:15pm	Daily
UA5072	9:55pm	10:45pm	Daily	UA5079	8:35pm	9:25pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily	DL286	7:40pm	12:15am +1	2, 4, 6, 7
DL285	6:30am	9:15am	1, 3, 5, 7	DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily	DL288	8:15pm	12:50am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)				OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN			
0Z606/120	2:20am	8:50pm	1 via ICN	0Z119/606	9:30am	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
0Z606/120	2:50am	8:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	0Z119/606	9:30am	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
0Z606	2:20am	6:00am	1	0Z603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
0Z606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	0Z605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
0Z604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily	0Z605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6	3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
0Z606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN	DL172/288	7:50am	12:50am+1	Daily via NRT
0Z606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	UA190/5077	10:55am	6:15pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	3, 6 via GUM	UA190/5079	10:55am	9:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:00pm	Daily via NRT	0Z702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	Daily via GUM	0Z702/605	12:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA5076/193	3:10pm	10:25pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau	PR110/UA5071	10:10pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
0Z604/703	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN	UA192/5071	9:45pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
UA5072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
				UA184/5071	11:25pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM
				0Z704/603	11:40pm	2:20pm+1	Daily via ICN
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
0Z606/721	2:20am	11:50pm	1 via ICN	0Z724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
0Z606/721	2:50am	11:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	0Z722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7
				0Z722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:45pm	1, 5 via GUM	UA180/5071	10:35pm	8:00am+1	1, 5 via GUM
0Z604/723	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN				
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana				ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The <i>Saipan Tribune</i> is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)			

## FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan							
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	Tinian-Saipan			
Saipan-Rota				FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
				FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
				FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily



## NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- \*11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.com](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.com)



# Business

## US national debt hits \$16 trillion

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—The Treasury Department said Tuesday that the national debt has topped \$16 trillion, the result of chronic government deficits that have poured more than \$50,000 worth of red ink onto federal ledgers for every man, woman and child in the United States.

The news was greeted with a round of press releases from Barack Obama's GOP rivals, who used the grim-but-expected news to criticize the president for the government's fiscal performance over his 3 1/2 years in office. Obama has presided over four straight years of trillion dollar-plus deficits after inheriting a weak economy from his predecessor, George W. Bush.

"We can no longer push off the tough decisions until tomorrow," said No. 2 House Republican Eric Cantor, R-Va. "It's time to address the serious fiscal challenges we face and stop spending money we don't have." Last summer, Cantor dropped out of a set of budget talks hosted by Vice President Joe Biden, citing the insistence of the White House on tax increases to help close deficits that require the government to borrow 33 cents of every dollar it spends.

The spiraling debt means that lawmakers and the eventual winner of the White House in November will have to pass a law early next year to raise the government's borrowing cap from the current ceiling of \$16.39 trillion. Passing such legislation last year proved enormously difficult and the nation's credit rating suffered.

First, however, lawmakers will try during a post-election lame duck session to renew Bush-era tax cuts and head off a round of forced budget austerity as automatic budget cuts are scheduled in January to slam both the Pentagon and domestic programs. Those cuts were required by another failed set of budget talks last fall by a bipartisan "supercommittee."

Sen. Rob Portman, R-Ohio, said: "This debt will not only be a liability for our kids and grandkids, but economists also tell us that it will limit economic growth and kill millions of jobs now and in the future." Portman was a member of last year's failed supercommittee, which deadlocked over taxes and cuts to popular benefit programs.

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## Pickups drive US auto sales to 3-year high

**DETROIT (AP)**—Big pickups carried U.S. auto sales to their highest level in three years.

Demand for full-size pickups jumped 16 percent in August, helping to make it the strongest sales month since August 2009. Overall auto sales increased 20 percent from a year earlier to nearly 1.3 million, according to Autodata corp.

The rising demand shows that businesses need to replace aging trucks and feel more confident about the recovery in U.S. housing—an industry where pickups are essential for hauling equipment and crews.

"Businesses don't usually go buy a fleet of trucks unless they have good reason to believe that business will be ramping up," said Jesse Toprak, vice president of market intelligence for the TrueCar.com auto pricing service.

Ford, GM and Chrysler, the biggest makers of full-size trucks, notched double-digit gains in overall sales last month.



The Dodge logo is seen on a new Dodge RAM 1500 pickup truck for sale at an auto dealership Sunday, June 24, 2012 in Springfield, Ill.

In pickups, Ford's F-Series, the top-selling vehicle in America, saw a 19 percent sales increase, as did Chrysler's Ram pickup. Sales of General Motors' Chevy Silverado rose 4 percent, while the GMC Sierra was up 9 percent. Toyota's struggling big truck, the Tundra, posted a huge increase of 68 percent.

The rising demand helped

push total U.S. auto sales last month to an annual rate of 14.5 million. That's the best monthly sales pace since the government's "Cash for Clunkers" rebate program in August of 2009.

Pent-up demand is part of the reason for last month's truck increase. The average vehicle on U.S. roads is nearing 11 years old, and some are simply wearing out.

## Global manufacturing weakness hurts US factories

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—Manufacturing is weakening around the globe, a trend that is weighing on U.S. growth just as the presidential campaign enters its final stretch.

U.S. factory activity shrank for a third straight month in August, according to a survey by the Institute for Supply Management released Tuesday.

Manufacturing has slumped as American businesses have scaled back demand for machinery, equipment and other investments. It's also contracting in just about every major economy overseas, including the 17 countries that use the euro, plus Britain, China, Japan and Brazil. In China, factory activity fell last month to its lowest level in more than three years.

Less factory production in the United States and abroad has sapped a critical source of growth and jobs in the three years since the recession ended. That trend will likely keep growth and hiring tepid through the November elections.

Weakness in manufacturing may also help persuade the Federal Reserve to announce some new action after its meeting next week to try to boost growth.

"The manufacturing recovery is at least temporarily out of steam," Nigel Gault, chief U.S. economist at IHS Global Insight, said.

An index of manufacturing activity fell slightly to 49.6 last month, down from 49.8 in July, the ISM survey said. That's the lowest level in three years. And it's the first time the index

has stayed below 50 for three straight months since July 2009, a month after the recession officially ended.

A reading below 50 indicates contraction in the sector. But the index typically must fall to about 43 to indicate that the overall economy is in recession, according to the ISM.

Paul Dales, senior U.S. economist at Capital Economics, said the latest survey suggests the economy is growing at an annual rate between 1.5 percent and 2 percent in the July-September quarter. Growth at or below 2 percent isn't enough to significantly lower the unemployment rate, which was 8.3 percent in July.

The U.S. government will issue the August employment report on Friday.

# Nation

## First lady: 'We can trust' Obama

**CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)**—First lady Michelle Obama lovingly praised her husband Tuesday night in a prime-time Democratic Convention speech as a devoted spouse and caring father at home and a "man we can trust" to revive the nation's weak economy as president, beckoning the country to return him to the White House despite agonizingly slow recovery from recession.



Obama

"He reminds me that we are playing a long game here ... and that change is hard, and change is slow and it never happens all at once," she told a nation impatient with slow economic progress and persistently high unemployment of 8.3 percent.

"But eventually, we get there, we always do," she said in a speech that roused Democrats packed into their convention arena and blended scenes from almost 20 years of marriage with the Obamas' time in the White House.

Mrs. Obama, given a huge ovation and emotionally describing herself as the "mom in chief," made no mention of Republican challenger Mitt Romney. But those who preceded her to the podium on the first night of the president's convention were scathing.

"If Mitt was Santa Claus, he'd fire the reindeer and outsource the elves," declared former Ohio Gov. Ted Strickland in one biting speech. Tapped to deliver the keynote address, San Antonio Mayor Julian Castro said Romney was a millionaire

politician who "quite simply, doesn't get it" when it comes to the needs of the middle class. Referring to the Republican's support for mandatory health insurance when he was governor of Massachusetts, he added, "Gov. Romney has undergone an extreme makeover, and it ain't pretty."

Polls made the race for the White House a tight one, almost certain to be decided in a string of eight or 10 battleground states where neither the president nor Romney holds a clear advantage. There was ample evidence during the day of an underperforming economy, including a report that said manufacturing activity declined for a third straight month and an announcement from the Treasury that the government's debt exceeded \$16 trillion at the close of the business day.

## Pentagon says ex-SEAL book contains secrets

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—A former Navy SEAL's insider account of the raid that killed Osama bin Laden contains classified information, the Pentagon said Tuesday, and the admiral who heads the Naval Special Warfare Command said details in the book may provide enemies with dangerous insight into secretive U.S. operations.

Rear Adm. Sean Pybus told his force Tuesday that "hawking details about a mission" and selling other information about SEAL training and operations puts the force and their families at risk.

"For an elite force that should be humble and disciplined for life, we are certainly not appearing to be so," Pybus wrote in a letter to the roughly 8,000 troops under his command. "We owe our chain of

command much better than this."

The letter was obtained by The Associated Press.

At the Pentagon, press secretary George Little said that an official review of the book, "No Easy Day," determined that it reveals what he called "sensitive and classified" information. He was not more specific but said the author was required to submit the book to the Pentagon before publication for a formal review of potential disclosures of such information.

"When you have special operations units that perform these missions, there are tactics, techniques, and procedures, not to mention human life, that are in play," Little said. "And it is the height of irresponsibility not to have this kind of material checked for

the possible disclosure of classified information."

He told reporters during a briefing that the Pentagon is still reviewing what legal options should be taken against the author.

If the Pentagon determines the bin Laden book does disclose classified secrets, the government could consider bringing federal criminal charges against Bissonnette. The potential charges and penalties would depend largely on what type of secrets were disclosed.

Pybus, in his letter, was more direct, saying that, "We must immediately reconsider how we properly influence our people in and out of uniform NOT to seek inappropriate monetary, political, or celebrity profit from their service" with the SEALs.

## Police: NJ boy, 6, killed saving sister in attack

**CAMDEN, N.J. (AP)**—A 6-year-old boy whose throat was slashed by an intruder high on PCP-laced marijuana was killed trying to save his sister, coming to her aid as she was being assaulted on the floor, prosecutors said Tuesday.

Osvaldo Rivera, who is charged in Sunday's middle-of-the-night attack, sobbed during an appearance Tuesday in court in which bail was set at \$5 million.

During an interrogation, Rivera had asked: "How bad did I hurt them?" assistant prosecutor Christine Shah said during the hearing.

The attack early Sunday was the second time in less than two weeks that prosecutors say

a Camden resident apparently high on PCP had killed a child. On Aug. 22, a Camden woman decapitated her 2-year-old son, called 911 to admit stabbing the child, then killed herself.

Authorities said they are going to test PCP on the street to see what might be behind the outbursts of violence. The drug can make users hallucinatory and incoherent, police said.

The 31-year-old Rivera admitted he smoked "wet," a combination of marijuana and PCP, before the killing, police said. In the decapitation case, authorities said that preliminary tests showed the woman had PCP in her system and that they believed she had also smoked wet.

New details in the more re-

cent attack were revealed after authorities interviewed the girl, 12, whose windpipe had been slashed but whose condition was upgraded from critical to stable. She ran out of the house and sought help after her brother intervened. Both children had been sleeping downstairs when the assault began, police said.

The girl also said she had been raped by the attacker, Shah said at the court hearing.

Rivera, who did not enter a plea, is charged with murder and attempted murder, but prosecutors said more charges will be filed. Authorities said he had a drug arrest in 2009 but no other convictions. He did not yet have an attorney Tuesday.



# Asia

## Clinton seeks Chinese accord on South China Sea

**BEIJING (AP)**—U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton is in Beijing to press Chinese authorities to agree to peacefully resolve disputes with their smaller neighbors over competing territorial claims in the South China Sea. But as she began her meetings here, China questioned the stated neutrality of the United States.



Clinton

Clinton met late Tuesday with Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi after arriving in China from Indonesia, where she urged Southeast Asian nations to present a unified front in dealing with China in attempts to ease rising tensions in the South China Sea. Clinton will meet on Wednesday with other top Chinese officials, including President Hu Jintao and State Councillor Dai Bingguo.

The U.S. wants China and the other claimants to adopt a

binding code of conduct for the region, along with a process to resolve maritime disputes without coercion, intimidation or the use of force. Clinton wants the Chinese to drop their insistence on settling conflicting claims with individual nations and instead embrace a multilateral mechanism that will give the smaller members of the Association of South East Asian Nations greater clout in negotiations.

She urged all parties to make “meaningful progress” by a November summit of East Asian leaders that President Barack Obama plans to attend in Cambodia.

In Indonesia’s capital before heading to China, Clinton offered strong U.S. support for a regionally endorsed plan to ease rising tensions by implementing the code of conduct. Jakarta is the headquarters of ASEAN, and Clinton pressed the group

to insist that China agree to deal with them as a bloc.

The stance puts the U.S. squarely at odds with China, which has become more aggressive in pressing its territorial claims with its smaller neighbors and wants the disputes to be resolved with each country, giving it greater leverage. Clinton made her case in Jakarta on Tuesday in meetings with Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and ASEAN secretary general Surin Pitsuwan, a day after she delivered the same message to Indonesian Foreign Minister Marty Natalegawa. Indonesia has played a leading role in putting the six-point plan together after ASEAN was unable to reach consensus on the matter in July.

Clinton said the U.S. is “encouraged” by the plan but wants it acted on—particularly implementation and enforcement of the code of conduct, which has languished since a preliminary framework for it was first agreed upon in 2002.

## Playboy death new wrinkle in China’s power shuffle

**BEIJING (AP)**—China’s hopes for a smooth, once-a-decade political transition have been shaken by a lurid new scandal involving the death of a senior official’s son who crashed during what may have been sex games in a speeding Ferrari.

Details of the March accident in Beijing, which allegedly also injured two young women, have stayed under wraps in China but are leaking out via media in Hong Kong. The media blackout underscores official fears that the public will be outraged by another instance of excess and recklessness among China’s power elites.

The embarrassing new wrinkle follows the murder trial last month of a top leader’s wife

who poisoned her British business associate last year. Both scandals have become bargaining chips in the jockeying for power ahead of a major leadership reshuffle this fall.

The South China Morning Post on Monday cited an unnamed official in Beijing as confirming that Ling Gu, the son of a loyal aide to President Hu Jintao, was the person killed in a March 18 Ferrari accident which initially garnered only minimal coverage in China’s state media. The report said Ling was half-naked when the crash occurred and his two passengers were naked or half-dressed, suggesting they had been involved in some kind of high-speed sex game.

Several other news outlets later cited additional unnamed officials as corroborating details. However, efforts to get officials to publicly confirm the report were unsuccessful. Faxed requests for information to the Public Security Bureau and China’s Cabinet were not immediately answered.

Prestigious Peking University, where Ling was a student, would not comment, but political science professor Yang Chaohui said the young man has not been seen there since March.

“We have discussed this matter in class. I personally am quite concerned about this matter and according to various signs, I think we can confirm that his death is a true fact,” Yang said.

del Sur province on Tuesday when assailants fired at them. The elder Manda was wounded and said later via text message that his son was sacrificed to protect his people’s rights and ancestral domain. “It is very painful and I thirst for justice. I vow to continue my struggle in order not to make my son’s death in vain,” Manda said. Police said they are investigating. Amnesty International noted that Manda’s family has been targeted in the past. His cousin was fatally shot a decade ago.

### Media: Japan gov’t agrees to buy disputed islands

**TOKYO (AP)**—The Japanese government has agreed to buy several privately owned islands in the East China Sea that are controlled by Japan but also claimed by China, media reports said Wednesday. The government has agreed to buy three of the five main islands, called Senkaku in Japanese and Diaoyu in Chinese, from the Kurihara family for 2.05 billion yen (\$26 million), Kyodo News agency and the Yomiuri and Asahi newspapers reported, citing anonymous sources. A Japanese government official declined to confirm the deal and said negotiations were continuing.

# World

## More than 100,000 fled Syria in August

**BEIRUT (AP)**—More than 100,000 Syrians fled their country in August, the highest monthly total since the crisis began in March 2011, the U.N. refugee agency said Tuesday.

That exodus sharply increased the number of Syrians now living in neighboring countries, bringing the total number of refugees to 234,368 in the past 17 months, the agency said.

Along with activists’ reports that the death toll in August was also the highest in the civil war with 5,000 killed, all signs are pointing to unprecedented levels of misery in a country where President Bashar Assad’s regime is fighting an increasingly violent rebellion.

“If you do the math, it’s quite an astonishing number,” U.N. refugee agency spokeswoman Melissa Fleming said of the number of people who fled in August, speaking to reporters Tuesday in Geneva.

“And it points to a significant



AP

A Syrian child stands next to rebel fighters checking a house that was damaged in bombing by government forces in Marea, on the outskirts of Aleppo, Syria, Tuesday, Sept. 4, 2012.

escalation in refugee movement and people seeking asylum, and probably points to a very precarious and violent situation inside the country,” she said.

But even the August figure only counts refugees who are registered and those awaiting registration. Officials acknowledge the real number of Syrian refugees is likely way above 200,000, because tens of thou-

sands are believed to have not yet contacted authorities.

The uprising began with largely peaceful protests of Assad’s regime but has turned into a civil war that activists say has killed at least 23,000 people.

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon accused both the Syrian government and the opposition of large-scale human right violations and failing to protect civilians fleeing the country.

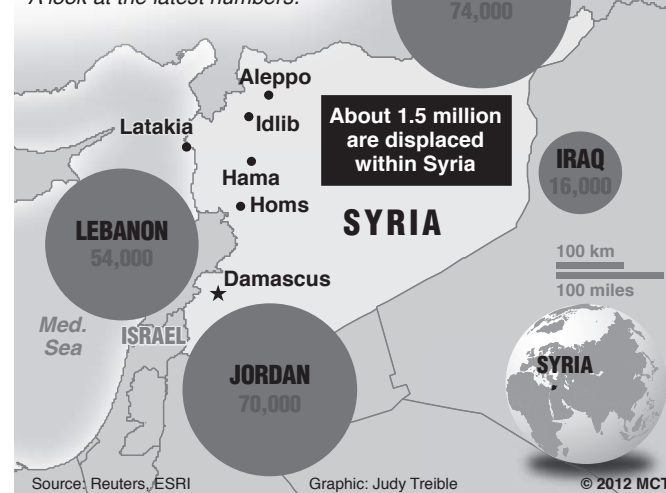
“Prisoners on both sides are subject to harsh treatment and, often, torture,” Ban said in a speech before the U.N. General Assembly. “There have been alarming reports of summary executions on both sides.”

As Syrians look to escape the bloodshed, Assad told the head of the International Committee of the Red Cross on Tuesday that the group is welcome to operate in Syria—as long as it remains “neutral and independent,” state media reported.

Assad has accused the international community of conspiring to unseat him.

## Syria’s refugee exodus grows

More than 214,000 Syrian civilians have registered as refugees in neighboring countries. A look at the latest numbers:



Source: Reuters, ESRI

Graphic: Judy Treible

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## Colombia’s ‘Queen of Cocaine’ shot dead

**BOGOTA (AP)**—Griselda Blanco, a convicted drug trafficker who was once known as the “Godmother” and the “Queen of Cocaine,” has been shot to death by an unidentified gunman, police in Colombia said Tuesday.

Col. Mauricio Cartagena of Medellin’s metropolitan police said Tuesday that the 69-year-old was killed at a butcher shop in the city on Monday.

Cartagena said a man approached Blanco at the shop and fired before escaping on a motorcycle driven by another man. She died on her way to the hospital.

He said the police hadn’t identified a firm motive for the killing.

“We don’t know why they killed her, but the first hypoth-

esis would be revenge or a settling of accounts,” Cartagena said, referring to her past involvement in drug trafficking. Blanco had no charges pending against her in her native Colombia, he added.

Blanco was among the first Colombian women to traffic cocaine to the United States in the 1970s and 1980s. She had been deported back to Colombia in 2004 after serving nearly 20 years behind bars in the United States for drug trafficking and three drug-related killings.

She served three concurrent sentences after pleading no contest in 1998 to second-degree murder charges. Authorities said Blanco arranged three contract killings in 1982 that took the lives of toddler Johnny Castro, 2, and drug dealers

Alfredo and Grisel Lorenzo.

The child died when bullets meant for his father, Jesus Castro, hit the boy instead, police said. She already had been serving prison time for cocaine trafficking when she entered her plea in the killings.

U.S. authorities have described Blanco as a charter member of the “cocaine cowboys” who engaged in drug trafficking, contract killings and gangland shootouts in South Florida in the 1980s. She was also once known for her love of shopping and beauty salons.

Blanco was reportedly a fan of the film “The Godfather,” naming one of her sons Michael Corleone, the name of the character played by Al Pacino in the film.

### ASIAN BRIEFS

#### Suicide bomber kills 25 in east Afghanistan

**KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)**—A suicide bomber killed at least 25 civilians and wounded another 30 at a funeral for a village elder in a remote part of eastern Afghanistan, Afghan officials said. Ahmad Zia Abdul Zai, a spokesman for the provincial governor, said the attack took place on Tuesday in the village of Shagai in the Durbaba district of eastern Nangarhar province. He and other officials said at least 25 people were killed. Initial reports had at least 10 civilians killed. Zai and police later said more than a dozen people died of their injuries. There was no immediate claim of responsibility.

#### Gunmen kill son of Filipino anti-mining activist

**MANILA, Philippines (AP)**—Gunmen in the southern Philippines ambushed a tribal chieftain who was campaigning against mining and destruction of forests, killing his 11-year-old son in the latest of several attacks on environmental activists, a human rights group said Wednesday. Amnesty International said Lucenio Manda was driving his son, Jordan, to school in Zamboanga



# Environment

## LEDs put life in lighting

By **MARY BETH BRECKENRIDGE**  
AKRON BEACON JOURNAL

You thought the lighting at the Olympics' opening and closing ceremonies was cool?

Get ready to be wowed right in your own home.

Advances in LED lighting are promising not only to brighten our homes, but also spark our imaginations.

LEDs are freeing lighting designers from the constraints of conventional bulbs, and those designers are responding with products that could change how we think about lighting a room.

Picture lighted wall panels that respond to our movements, windows that morph into lighting sources and starry arrays suspended from the ceiling.

Those sorts of innovations are probably years away from common residential use. But some are already starting to find their way into hospitality and other business settings, and even into some high-end homes.

They're possible because of the unusual properties of LEDs.

LEDs are light-emitting diodes, semiconductor devices that light up when electrical current passes through. We've become familiar with them in



**WILLIAM E. MARCHETTI III/MCT**  
A chandelier and wall sconce from WAC Lighting using new LED technology.

such uses as traffic lights and automotive lighting, and lately they've been inching into the home in such forms as under-counter lighting, recessed lighting and even replacement light bulbs.

But the Olympics ceremonies showed us that LEDs have a wow factor, too.

LEDs lighted the Olympic rings and gave the wings of costumed characters an ethereal glow. Mounted on stadium seats, LEDs made the audience part of a digital light show that

pulsed with vibrant color and flashed messages around the arena.

An LED is tiny, about one-fourth the size of your pinkie fingernail. It takes a number of LEDs to produce the light of a conventional light bulb, but those teeny light sources can be arrayed in interesting ways.

"You're seeing a lot of creativity," said Jeff Dross, corporate director of education and industry trends at Kichler Lighting, based in Independence, Ohio. "... Essentially, a designer is unleashed at this point."

Take, for example, the edge-lighted panels that East Cleveland's GE Lighting Solutions unveiled last year. They're thin, transparent acrylic panels rimmed with LEDs, which illuminate the acrylic when they're turned on. The panels can be recessed in a ceiling or wall or suspended from a ceiling like a sleek, contemporary chandelier.

Kichler is starting to incorporate LEDs into its lighting fixtures, Dross said. It recently introduced an ultra-thin wall sconce and is planning to come out with an LED chandelier in a few months, although he said details are hush-hush.

The sconce is noteworthy

in that it's only about 2 inches deep, so it doesn't extend far into the room — "almost like a framed picture on a wall," Dross said. That makes it compliant with the Americans With Disabilities Act, which limits how far a fixture can protrude so it won't endanger people without sight, he explained.

### DO YOUR PART

## Do Your Part to treat pet stains and smells

By **TERRI BENNETT**  
MCT INFORMATION SERVICES

If you have a cat or dog at home, you know pet smells and stains are just a fact of life. Before you reach for a product filled with unwanted chemicals to clean up after them, Do Your Part and consider a few safer options for your pet and your family.

One of the most effective and economical options is to use baking soda. Sprinkle the powder in litter boxes to prevent smells. For stains, a paste made with baking soda and water can be used on carpets and many fabrics to remove the evidence and to deodorize.

Club soda is another easy and economical carpet saver. Its bubbly action will help bring the stain up to the surface so you'll be able to simply blot the residue away with a rag. Go further to neutralize the smell by

Perhaps the biggest innovations promise to come from a type of LED called an organic light-emitting diode. Whereas an LED produces a point of light, an OLED is a plane that lights up, explained Joe Rey-Barreau, who teaches lighting design at the University of Kentucky and is a spokesman for the

American Lighting Association.

OLEDs produce a homogenous, diffused light that's easy to look at directly, said Angela Hohl-AbiChedid, an OLED expert with Philips Lighting. They're less than one-tenth-inch thick and getting thinner, and they're lightweight and cool to the touch, she said.

sprinkling baking soda on the area after it dries. Simply vacuum clean after an hour or two.

Vinegar is another favorite of mine when it comes to cleaning up from pets. White vinegar will help you not only kill bacteria; it will also deodorize the area. Spray it on, let it set for several minutes, and then scrub the spot until the stain releases. Lemon juice can also be used to neutralize offending odors.

Then there are some safer store-bought options. Clean and Green offers pet specific cleaning products that work wonders on tough spots including leather. I've tried it on my own stained leather chair with great results. They also have non-toxic fabric deodorizers that are good for places where your pets like to hang out.

If you need a large area rug or carpets cleaned, look for eco-friendly carpet cleaning com-

panies. There are more green carpet cleaners now than ever. Ask specifically what process the company uses and what is in the solutions being applied to your carpets. Experts recommend staying away from cleaners containing perchloroethylene or naphthalene. These are known carcinogens. Instead, use plant-based carpet cleaners, which are safer for people, pets and the planet.

Using unnecessary chemicals in our homes isn't good for our families or our pets. So the next time you have to clean up after your four-legged friend, Do Your Part and make a healthier choice.

*Terri Bennett is a veteran TV meteorologist, eco-expert and author of Do Your Part, a practical guide for everyday green living available at DoYourPart.com. Send questions to [terri@doyourpart.com](mailto:terri@doyourpart.com).*

We, the family would like to inform all relatives & friends that our Beloved

## Dakasy David Fred Billy

Has joined our Creator on August 31, 2012

### ***In his new life, he now joins his:***

#### **Wife:**

Maria Pura (Ilibwe) T. Billy

#### **Parents:**

Fred Utalap & Kiloty Aritos Billy

#### **Brothers & Sisters:**

Rokucho R.F. Billy, Sinchy F. Billy, Merly B. Mark, Presenta A. Hambros

#### **Reared Parents in-law:**

Carmen M & Francisco Nekai

#### **Brothers & sisters in-law:**

Masao Mark, Kesia Billy, Lorenzo M. Tagabuel, Josephine S. Tagabuel, Felix F. Rabauliman, Mariko Rasiang, Anastasia Nogis, Sisto Hambros

### ***His memories will live forever in the hearts of his:***

#### **Children and Grandchildren:**

Resel Ann T. Billy & Bill Limes: (Dizon Anthony, Penina Anastasha, Joseph David)

Vincent John T. & Emi M. Billy: (Lia Jo Kiloty, David John)

Ruslyn Carmen B. & Nervin Saito: (Davianne Marie, Andreas Nemesio, Sebastian Fred)

#### **Brothers & Sisters:**

Desio F. Billy (Ekar), Sataichy A. Roby (Mineko), Anthony A. Billy, Sano Linny, Festy F. Billy, Roda F. Billy, Eren Petrus (Iwan)

#### **Brothers & Sisters in-law:**

Rita K. Billy, Augustine M. Tagabuel, Joaquin M. Tagabuel (Doris), Benusto M. Tagabuel (Nora), John M. Tagabuel (Laura), Vicente O. Tagabuel (Susan), Francisco O. Tagabuel (Nutsy), James O. Tagabuel (Monica), Jessca T. Roligat (Daniel), Joseph O. Tagabuel (Nora), Julian O. Tagabuel (Serna), Julita O. Tagabuel, Victoria T. Moded (Jerwin)

#### **Reared Siblings in-law:** Joaquina M. Rabauliman, Dolores Rasiang, Remedio Magofna, Nicholas Nekai, Antonio Mareham

### ***He will be missed by numerous cousins, nieces, nephews and friends.***

Nightly Rosary is being said at 7:30pm at his residence in Koblerville.

On Friday, September 07, 2012 at 3:00pm, the body will be taken to his residence for viewing and last respect. Responso will be held at 7:00pm.

On Saturday, September 08, 2012 at 10:00am, the Eucharistic Celebration Mass will be held at Mount Carmel Cathedral, followed by interment service at Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

**Killissou Chapur  
Seni Family**





## Life & Style

# Barker 'fine' with exclusion from 'Price' special

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—Bob Barker hosted "The Price Is Right" for 35 years, but he wasn't invited to participate in the game show's 40th anniversary special.

The 88-year-old TV personality says the show's producers "chose to ignore me, which is fine."

The 40th anniversary special episode of TV's longest-running game show aired Tuesday morning and featured returning contestants from the past four decades. Barker is shown in several clips but was not invited to appear on the program or at-

tend the taping.

"They haven't even offered me a DVD," Barker said in an interview Tuesday. Show producers had no comment.

Barker, a longtime animal activist who advised his viewers each day to "Help control the pet population: Have your pets spayed or neutered," thinks he was omitted from the anniversary show "because I have been critical of them for giving away prizes that I consider inappropriate."

He complained to producers for awarding tickets to Sea World and the Calgary Stampede as prizes. Both organiza-

tions "are notorious for animal abuse," Barker said.

(Sea World says on its website that "the animals in our care are content and healthy." The Calgary Stampede says it works with the Calgary Humane Society and the Alberta Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals to ensure its animals receive proper care.)

During his reign as host, Barker asked the show to stop giving away fur coats and leather jackets and they obliged.

"We really became very careful about what we put on the show," he said. "Had I been the executive producer, they would

not have even considered bringing me tickets to the Calgary Stampede of all things."

Barker has donated millions of dollars to animal-rights causes since retiring from "The Price Is Right" in 2007. He was replaced by Drew Carey, who hosted Tuesday's anniversary episode.

Barker's last appearance on the show—which is taped at

CBS' Bob Barker studio—was in 2009.

He insists he's fine with not being included in the anniversary episode, but said, "When you celebrate a 40th anniversary, you would think you'd have the fellow who did the show for 35 years there."

Barker's first appearance on "Price" in 1972 was among the clips included in the anni-

versary special.

Had he been invited to attend, he said he would have repeated his show-closing refrain about spaying and neutering pets.

"That's my message on any occasion and every occasion," he said.

Barker added that he had planned to watch the special but missed it: He had it down on his calendar for Wednesday.



In this June 6, 2007 file photo shows game show host Bob Barker gesturing during the taping of his final episode of "The Price Is Right" in Los Angeles. AP

## R. Kelly promises return to explicit music

By NEKESA MUMBI MOODY  
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

**NEW YORK** (AP)—R. Kelly has been all about romance on his last two albums, but the self-proclaimed Pied Piper of R&B says he isn't going to abandon the explicit music that helped make him famous.

"Absolutely not, and I tell people all the time man," Kelly said in a phone interview last week. "Make no mistake about it, R. Kelly is not going anywhere, it's just that R. Kelly has such a unique talent, and I've been blessed to be able to do all type of genres of music ... I'm exploring my gift right now."

Kelly's recent "Write Me Back" and 2010's "Love Letter" were a departure of sorts for the singer-songwriter, whose hits include classics like "Your Body's Callin'."

He described those acclaimed albums as a way of taking a break from his typical explicit material to try something new.

"When you've done twentysomething years, man, of giving people what they want, and satisfying people—peo-



This Aug. 10, 2012 photo originally released by Starpix shows R&B singer R. Kelly signing copies of his memoir, "Soulacoaster: The Diary of Me," at Barnes & Noble in New York. AP

ple like to say they're making babies off your music, they're doing all this—it makes me feel good, but at the same time, it makes me say, 'OK, now it's time to go and do something that's in me that I want to do and get out,'" he said.

He said his upcoming album will be on more familiar R. Kelly ground.

"The name of my next album is 'Black Panties'—that's my next '12 Play,'" he said, referring to his classic album filled with sexual material. "I'm go-

ing to have some fun on it."

Kelly also plans to have fun on his upcoming "Single Ladies" North American tour, which kicks off Oct. 13 in South Carolina and runs through December. Kelly said he aims for it to be "one big giant 'Dating Game.'"

"We really want the single ladies up there, and where guys know there's single ladies, they're going to be in the mix, because they're looking for a woman," he said.

Kelly is also focusing on the next chapters in his "Trapped" musical soap opera; he's been filming in his native Chicago and promises new characters, more surprises and an explanation of what the mysterious "package" is.

"Everybody remembers when Chuck was in the hospital, and ever since then, people have been asking me of course, 'What is the package, what is the package?' And that's what these chapters are about, is leading you up into what the package is going to be," he said. "This thing is an alien, it has taken on a life of its own, but I love doing it because it's stories."

## Jackson estate, businessman settle copyright case

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—Michael Jackson's estate and a businessman working with the singer's mother settled a copyright infringement lawsuit for \$2.5 million on Tuesday, shortly before a trial in the case was scheduled to begin.

The settlement also restricts Howard Mann and his companies from using Jackson's likeness without permission in the future. It ends a year and a half of legal fighting over Mann's use of Jackson's name and likeness on a website used to promote unreleased songs, photographs and a book written by Katherine Jackson filled with recollections of her superstar son.

Mann is the CEO of Vintage Pop Media, which operated the website [www.michaeljackson-secretvault.com](http://www.michaeljackson-secretvault.com) until it was ordered shut down last month by a federal judge who ruled the site

violated copyrights controlled by the singer's estate.

Under the terms of the settlement, announced in court by estate attorney Zia Modabber, Vintage Pop Media Group is responsible for \$2 million of the judgment, while the entity Vintage Associates LLC is responsible for the remainder. Vintage Associates is the custodian of the items that were at issue in the case.

Mann's attorney, Lee Durst, declined comment after the hearing. "The estate is delighted this matter is behind us," estate attorney Howard Weitzman said.

Among the items that had been improperly used were images from Jackson's posthumous film "This Is It" and a silhouette of the singer dancing in "Smooth Criminal." The settlement also blocks the usage of materials from "Thriller" that had appeared

on Mann's website.

A jury trial on how much Mann owes the estate had been scheduled to begin Tuesday, with an expert estimating a license for the works is worth between \$5 million and \$12 million.

Mann's attorneys rejected a settlement offer last week of \$2 million. They sought to introduce evidence that they were given bad legal advice about having to license the works and have considered calling Katherine Jackson as a witness. The Jackson family matriarch is one of the beneficiaries of the singer's estate, along with his three children.

U.S. District Judge Dean D. Pregerson has noted that Mann doesn't appear to have the resources to pay a large judgment. The defendants' ability to pay was not discussed in court on Tuesday.

## Road warrior Dylan reopens theater in NY

**PORT CHESTER, N.Y.** (AP)—Fifty years into his career as a recording artist and a week away from release of an extraordinary new CD, Bob Dylan spent his Tuesday evening where he seems to feel most comfortable—on a stage.

In this case, he marked the grand reopening of a refurbished theater in a gritty village 35 miles northeast of New York City.

At 71, the renowned songwriter is a road warrior. Tuesday was his 50th gig out of 87 scheduled this year, a schedule that has seen him play a brewery in Missoula, Mont.; a baseball field in Fort Wayne, Ind.; and an amphitheater built on the site of the first Woodstock concert in Bethel, N.Y.

In the past 20 years, Dylan has played more than 2,000

concerts, said Bill Pagel of the Boblinks website, who meticulously logs every song he performs.

Next week, Dylan releases "Tempest," a wide-ranging disc filled with the lyrical dexterity he's famous for that's getting such an advanced buzz that the Los Angeles Times website published a lengthy blog post on just one of its songs.

He has yet to try out any of the "Tempest" songs before a live audience, and Tuesday at Port Chester's Capitol Theatre was no exception.

His concert was the high-wire act his devoted fans are used to. It isn't a well-rehearsed set of the same greatest hits every night. Instead, Dylan veers between train wreck and transcendent, sometimes even within the same song. He took one leg-

endary song, "Tangled Up in Blue," and twisted it into a nearly unrecognizable rocker. The strong 1990s era "Things Have Changed" was speeded up from a shuffle to nearly twice its tempo.

The well-known "Highway 61 Revisited" was turned into a boogie-woogie led by Dylan's piano playing and refreshed by changes to its melody.

With popular music's most impressive catalogue at his fingertips, he'll pull out an obscure song like "Tweedle-Dee and Tweedle Dum" and leave you wondering why he bothered.

Yet the lovely ballad "Shooting Star" and relatively recent "High Water (For Charlie Patten)" from 2001 were highlights played back-to-back, with Dylan taking a microphone and prowling the stage like a Las Vegas showman.



# Lauren Anne Miller calls on family for 'Good Time'

BY NICOLE EVATT  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK (AP)—Lauren Anne Miller isn't afraid to talk dirty.

The 31-year-old actress stars in the racy romp "For a Good Time, Call ..." that she also produced and co-wrote with her former college roommate Katie Anne Naylon.

"You know girls ... we talk about sex and we talk about dirty things and in the writing process I loved any moment that I could write something that made Katie blush or be like, 'You wrote that?'" Miller said in a recent interview.

In the film, roommates Lauren (Miller) and Katie (Ari Graynor) start a phone-sex company in their New York City apartment. The story is loosely based on the pair's real-life friendship. (Naylon ran a phone-sex line out of her Florida State dorm room.)

But the script was finished before R-rated, female-centric comedies like "Bridesmaids"



This Aug. 21, 2012 file photo shows actress, writer and producer Lauren Anne Miller attending a special screening of "For a Good Time Call" at Regal Union Square Theaters in New York.

and "Bad Teacher" proved to be major box-office hits, so Miller and Naylon struggled to find a studio willing to take a risk on their bawdy flick.

"One day it hit me like a ton of bricks, and it was like, 'We need to make this happen for ourselves because no one is going to hand us this opportunity,'" Miller said.

They decided to produce it themselves, with family and friends helping get the film off the ground.

Graynor signed on as executive producer, as did Miller's brother Daniel, who helped find the funding. Miller's husband, actor Seth Rogan, appears briefly in the movie and her father helped in the writing process.

The film had a successful run at last year's Sundance Film Festival, and opened in theaters Friday.

"It's our baby," said Miller. "I like to say that we've been in labor for the past year and a half and this is our crowning moment."

## In 'H+' a possible blueprint for digital series

By JAKE COYLE  
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—How much does a good Web series cost?

That's been an evolving but constant question as digital series multiply. Increasingly, Internet-based series aspire to television-level quality, while trying to get by on Web-sized budgets.

But this has mainly meant that most Web series look shoddy. Fast and cheap has brought a rise in talk-show style productions, particularly among YouTube's channels and Yahoo's original programming. Comedy, less reliant on production value, is also less expensive, a truism proven by Zach Galifianakis' "Between Two Ferns," which flourished with merely a guest and two potted plants.

Drama, though, has always been a more costly proposition. On the Web, the economics usually just haven't added up.

Enter "H+," a digital series produced by Bryan Singer, the director of "The Usual Suspects" and "X-Men," as well as the executive producer of one of those high-price TV dramas, "House." The sci-fi "H+" is an ambitious, 48-part show with clear intentions of raising the bar on digital series and bringing a higher standard of production value to the Web.

"There were always different forms of short comedic programming (online), but I primarily come out of narrative drama or action adventure," says Singer. "So for me, I wanted us to try to explore something more cinematic in the Internet space—something that would be very stylized, with a high production value, but at the same time be

structured for the Internet."

The series, produced by Warner Premiere, debuted on YouTube in August and updates with a new 4- to 7-minute episode every Wednesday, a pace that will take its run into January. Its production budget was less than \$2 million, a fairly remarkable sum considering the series is 255 minutes in total and includes action scenes, visual effects and international settings.

By stretching every dollar of its budget and managing to

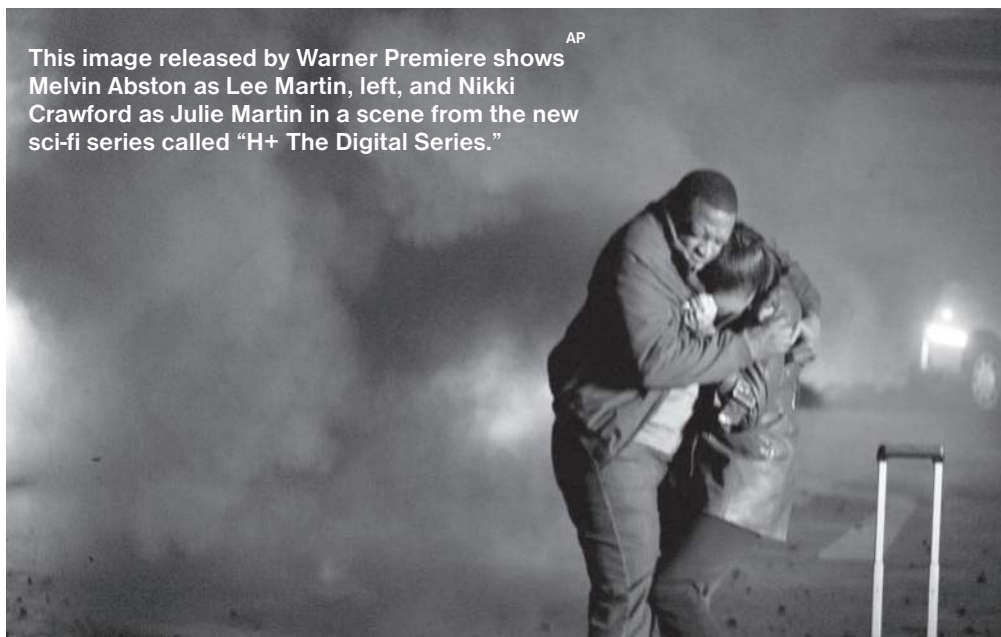
through data and make phone calls with the flick of the wrist, toggling an interface laid over eyesight. But a virus has suddenly spread through the device, immediately killing a third of the population.

With obvious inspiration from "Lost," the series shifts back and forth in time, gathering stories from before and after the event to piece together why it happened. The series is meant to be nonlinear, leaving episode order choice up to

fall premiere a 90-minute cybercrime drama for Yahoo.

"It's been incredibly fortuitous," says Hendler. "Web series now have more legitimacy. But we still feel like this project is a lot higher end of polish and scope than the stuff that's coming out. It's doing exactly what we wanted it to in a space that now seems like it's got more attention focused on it."

An early choice that paid dividends was decamping to Santiago, Chile, where the



This image released by Warner Premiere shows Melvin Abston as Lee Martin, left, and Nikki Crawford as Julie Martin in a scene from the new sci-fi series called "H+ The Digital Series."

achieve a production value far above most Web fare, "H+" could provide a blueprint for an industry striving to make hits with peanuts.

"We somehow managed to pull it off," says director Stewart Hendler, who helmed the 2009 horror film "Sorority Row." "We kind of referred to ourselves as the biggest student film in history."

"H+" is set in a near future where nearly everyone has a chip installed in their brains that blends the Internet with their minds. People scroll

the viewer. (A sliding timeline helps chart to the plot.)

The series, written by John Cabrera ("Gilmore Girls") and Cosimo De Tommaso, was originally pitched in 2008 to Singer's Bad Hat Harry production company as a TV series. At the time, the Web series outlook was fairly bleak, but "H+" now arrives amid a land rush led by Hulu, Netflix, YouTube and Yahoo, including names like Tom Hanks, Ben Stiller, Jerry Seinfeld and Richard Linklater. Anthony Zuiker, the creator of "CSI," will this

country's varied geography offered stand-ins for the script's international locations. Hendler, whom Singer picked partially based on his ability to wring high production value out of TV commercial he directed, led a 29-day shoot that covered 54 different locations.

The shoot was split up, though, between four weeks of threadbare, simple scenes, and a one week in which the crew size tripled and the larger set pieces were filmed. Those larger "scope moments" were sprinkled out across the 48 episodes.

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## ★ NOW SHOWING ★



### The Possession

Friday		4:25	7:25	9:50
Saturday and Sunday	1:25	4:25	7:25	9:50
Monday	1:25	4:25	7:25	
Tuesday thru Tuesday		4:25	7:25	

Cast: Jeffrey Dean Morgan, Kyra Sedgwick  
 Thriller, Horror • Rated PG13

### Synopsis

Inspired by Los Angeles Times writer Leslie Gornstein's article "A Jinx in a Box," this horror film from Ghost House Pictures and director Ole Bornedal (Nightwatch) tells the tale of a broken family that comes under attack from a malevolent supernatural entity of Jewish folklore. Shortly after her parents (Jeffrey Dean Morgan and Kyra Sedgwick) divorce, a young girl purchases an ornate antique box at a yard sale. In the weeks that follow, the young girl forms an intense fixation on the box, her behavior growing increasingly bizarre as she falls into the grip of a diabolical apparition. When the girl's father discovers that the relic is in fact a holding cell for the disconnected soul of a deceased person who has been denied entry into the afterlife and needs a human host to inhabit, he fights to rid her of the evil that threatens to consume her body and soul.



### The Odd Life of Timothy Green

Friday		4:05	7:10	9:35
Saturday and Sunday	1:20	4:05	7:10	9:35
Monday	1:20	4:05	7:10	
Tuesday thru Tuesday		4:05	7:10	

Cast: Jennifer Garner, Joel Edgerton  
 Comedy, Drama, Fantasy • Rated PG

### Synopsis

A happy husband and wife receive a most unexpected gift in this enchanting fantasy drama from Academy Award-nominated writer/director Peter Hedges (What's Eating Gilbert Grape?, Dan in Real Life). Jim (Joel Edgerton) and Cindy Green (Jennifer Garner) are deeply in love and planning to start a family in Stanleyville when one night, during a thunderous storm, a young boy named Timothy (CJ Adams) comes knocking at their door. In time, the prospective new parents and their curious neighbors discover that the most amazing things can happen just when you least expect it.

## ★ ★ ★



### Step Up: Revolution

Friday		4:30	7:30	10:00
Saturday and Sunday	1:30	4:30	7:30	10:00
Monday	1:30	4:30	7:30	
Tuesday thru Tuesday		4:30	7:30	

Cast: Ryan Guzman, Kathryn McCormick  
 Drama • Rated PG13



### Hit and Run

Friday		4:20	7:20	9:40
Saturday & Sunday	1:00	4:20	7:20	9:40
Monday	1:00	4:20	7:20	
Sunday thru Tuesday		4:20	7:20	

Cast: Dax Shepard, Bradley Cooper  
 Action • Rated R



### The Expendables 2

Friday		4:10	7:05	9:55
Saturday & Sunday	1:10	4:10	7:05	9:55
Monday	1:10	4:10	7:05	
Sunday thru Tuesday		4:10	7:05	

Cast: Sylvester Stallone, Jason Statham, Jet Li  
 Action • Rated R



### Paranorman

Friday		4:15	7:15	9:30
Saturday & Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:15	9:30
Monday	1:15	4:15	7:15	
Sunday thru Tuesday		4:15	7:15	

Cast: Susan Dudgeon, Donna Lynn Leavy  
 Children's/family • Rated PG



### Bourne Legacy

Friday		4:00	7:00	9:45
Saturday & Sunday	1:05	4:00	7:00	9:45
Monday	1:05	4:00	7:00	
Tuesday thru Tuesday		4:00	7:00	

Cast: Jeremy Renner, Rachel Weisz  
 Spy film, Action • Rated PG13

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## Bride resists mom's attempt to keep stepmom in shadows

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

**DEAR ABBY:** “Disappearing Step-mother’s” June 9 letter brought back memories of my stepdaughter “Amy’s” wedding. Her mother also tried her best to prevent us from being involved. However, Amy included all four of her parents in the wedding. Dad and Stepdad walked her down the aisle together, and her mom and I lit the bride’s candle together (though I’m sure she gritted her teeth when she did it).

The bride needs to develop a backbone and stand up to her mother. The dad (who’s paying for half the wedding) should at least put his foot down about the guest list, and invite whomever he and his wife would like to be there. Wedding photos can be of the two families separately, including the stepmom. Otherwise, resentment will linger and poison the relationship between stepmom and stepdaughter.



*Dear Abby*

ANOTHER STEPMOM

**DEAR STEPMOM:** I encouraged “Disappearing” to attend the wedding to support her stepdaughter and inject a dose of reality into the “fantasy,” and readers were quick to share their views:

**DEAR ABBY:** I, too, am stepmom to two beautiful young women whose mother harbors animosity toward me and my husband. When the girls were kids she filled their heads with lies about us. Their father and I remained noncritical, loving and constant.

There were some rocky years, but my stepdaughters and I have made it through. When the younger one was married two years ago, she did a beautiful job including me. Her mother spent the wedding day spewing vile lies about us to anyone who’d listen, and is still bitter these 26 years later.

The girls see their mother as she is and do not let her affect their relationship with us. For this I credit my husband, who never tolerated her ill treatment of me. Stepmoms are not looking to be in the spotlight or take anyone’s place. But we are an important part of the modern family and should be treated with the honor and respect we deserve.

MADE IT THROUGH

**DEAR ABBY:** I work in the wedding industry, and all too frequently I see the engaged couple manipulated by a parent in order to hurt the former spouse and alienate the stepparent. It is the bane of my professional existence. They cause so much stress for the couple that I’ve had brides break down and cry in my office and choose to elope rather than deal with the drama.

Parents must realize that their children are loved by MANY people, and the best gift they can give them on their wedding day is to set aside differences and old grudges in order to support the couple as they begin their marriage.

FRUSTRATED WEDDING PLANNER

**DEAR ABBY:** My husband’s former wife has been a huge challenge for me, even showing up at our small wedding ceremony and slapping me in the face. The children were all there and I kept the evening going by hugging them and saying I was sorry their mom was so upset. Now, as I watch these grown kids and THEIR kids making their way through life, I am proud to have been part of showing them what a solid, loving family can be without alienation and selfishness.

BARBARA IN ILLINOIS

**DEAR ABBY:** I sympathize with “Disappearing,” having myself been ignored at “blended” family events, including weddings. I am also conveniently excluded from family photos.

I deal with all of this by staying in the background during events. The gathering is not about me. My stepkids are simply trying to keep the drama caused by their mother to a minimum. They would never hear the end of it from her, and she has been known to go off in public. I know they appreciate my quiet approach because, when not in their mother’s presence, they treat me with kindness, love and humor.

MARCIA IN VIRGINIA

**DEAR ABBY:** First wives hold the upper hand in many instances. It’s something you never really get used to -- you just live with it.

When your husband’s daughter matures and is a mom herself, things may change. They did for me. Take the high road and always do the right thing. That first wife is clearly traveling on a lower path.

SURVIVOR IN ALABAMA

*Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*

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## Thatcher power suit sold for \$39,670 at auction

**LONDON (AP)**—A turquoise wool suit that Margaret Thatcher wore on the day she was confirmed as Conservative Party leader has sold at auction for 25,000 pounds (\$39,670).

An anonymous bidder bought the dress suit, by British designer Mansfield, at a Christie’s auction in London late Monday.

Separately, a buyer in South Korea snagged six other striking outfits on auction, all of which were worn by Thatcher in the 1970s before she became prime minister.

Those outfits included a canary yellow dress with navy trim and a matching jacket that the former leader wore to the Conservative Party Conference in 1975; a blush pink outfit Thatcher wore in a BBC show in which she was interviewed about her skin care regime; and a silver and gold cocktail ensemble.

## Casino mogul denies threatening porn producer

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—Casino mogul Steve Wynn has told a jury he never threatened the life of a porn producer and that if he had, it would destroy his upscale casino businesses.

“Girls Gone Wild” producer Joe Francis claims that Wynn threatened to kill him



Wynn

and have him buried in the desert in emails and conversations with record producer Quincy Jones in 2010. Francis first made the claims while embroiled in a multi-million dollar dispute over a gambling debt.

Wynn later sued for slander.

## Investor group buying Dick Clark Productions

**NEWYORK (AP)**—Dick Clark Productions, which produces TV programs including “New Year’s Rockin’ Eve” and the Golden Globe Awards, is being sold to a group including investment firm Guggenheim Partners.

Financial terms were not disclosed.

Selling Dick Clark Productions is private equity firm RedZone Capital Management, owned by Washington Redskins owner Dan Snyder. RedZone bought the company in 2007 for \$175 million.

Along with Guggenheim, other buyers include Mandalay



This is a Thursday, Aug. 30, 2012 file photo of the business suits of former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher seen on display at Christie’s auction house in London.

In total, the outfits fetched a little more than 73,000 pounds—far exceeding the ini-

tial estimates of 1,000 to 1,500 pounds for each outfit.

The sales were part of a

Francis repeated the claims during a trial that began Tuesday in Los Angeles. He says he took the warnings from his neighbor Jones seriously.

Wynn is the CEO of Wynn Resorts Ltd. and developed many of Las Vegas’ signature hotels including The Mirage and Bellagio. He testified he has never sent an email in his life.

“London” themed auction that included royal, Olympic and political memorabilia.

## Ex-Beatle McCartney nominated for legion of honor

**PARIS (AP)**—France’s Elysee Palace has said former Beatle Paul McCartney has been nominated for the legion of honor for services to music.

On Tuesday, a presidential spokesman said that 70-year-old McCartney—who sung and co-wrote hits like “Hey Jude” and “Yesterday”—will be decorated at the rank of officer by French President Francois Hollande in a ceremony Saturday in Paris.

McCartney will join the ranks other singers to have received the honor. Barbra Streisand and Liza Minnelli were similarly honored by former President Nicolas Sarkozy.

McCartney—often referred to as “Sir Paul” or “Macca” in his native Britain—has already received a knighthood from Queen Elizabeth II, who watched him perform at the opening ceremony of the 2012 Olympic Games in London.

## SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

### London museum to open David Bowie exhibition

**LONDON (AP)**—David Bowie’s Ziggy Stardust jumpsuit will be among some 300 items shown at a London exhibition that traces the singer’s career through five decades. The retrospective at the Victoria and Albert Museum will also feature Bowie’s instruments, 60 costumes, sketches, hand-written lyrics, diary entries and album artwork. Organizers said Tuesday the show, called “David Bowie Is,” will chronicle Bowie’s influence on art and culture and his role in inspiring self-expression. The items on display are from the David Bowie Archive in New York. The exhibition opens in March 2013. The 65-year-old Bowie, who now lives in the U.S., was born David Robert Jones in 1947 in south London. He adopted his stage name in 1965.

### ‘Anna Karenina’ premieres in London

**LONDON (AP)**—Keira Knightley and Jude Law swept along a red carpet, complete with chandeliers, at the world premiere of their new movie “Anna Karenina.” The London event Tuesday was slightly less theatrical than the film itself—an interpretation of Leo Tolstoy’s epic love story, set in 19th century Russia. Knightley portrays the title role, the tragic heroine torn between reputation and romance. Law plays her jilted husband, while Aaron Taylor-Johnson is the man she falls for. Knightley says one daunting aspect of playing Anna was “trying not to simplify her at all and actually go with all the complexities.” “Anna Karenina,” directed by Joe Wright, opens in the U.K. on Friday and hits the U.S. this November.

### Puddle of Mudd singer Scantlin arrested

**AUSTIN, Texas (AP)**—Puddle of Mudd lead singer Wes Scantlin has been arrested in Texas and charged with public intoxication after being removed from a cross-country flight. Police in Austin say the pilot of a JetBlue flight requested an emergency landing Tuesday to remove an unruly passenger creating a disturbance. Details about the incident weren’t immediately available. The plane was traveling from Boston to Los Angeles. Police say it isn’t clear if the 40-year-old singer for the multi-platinum rock band has an attorney. Contact information for a publicist couldn’t be found, and a message to the band’s website wasn’t immediately returned. The Transportation Security Administration did not immediately respond to questions about the incident.







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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE  
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN  
MARIANA ISLANDS

CITY TRUST BANK, Plaintiff,	CIVIL ACTION NO.
-v-	11-0118
PIAO FENG SHAN and YUAN CHANG NU, Defendants.	SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION

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MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC, the Plaintiff's  
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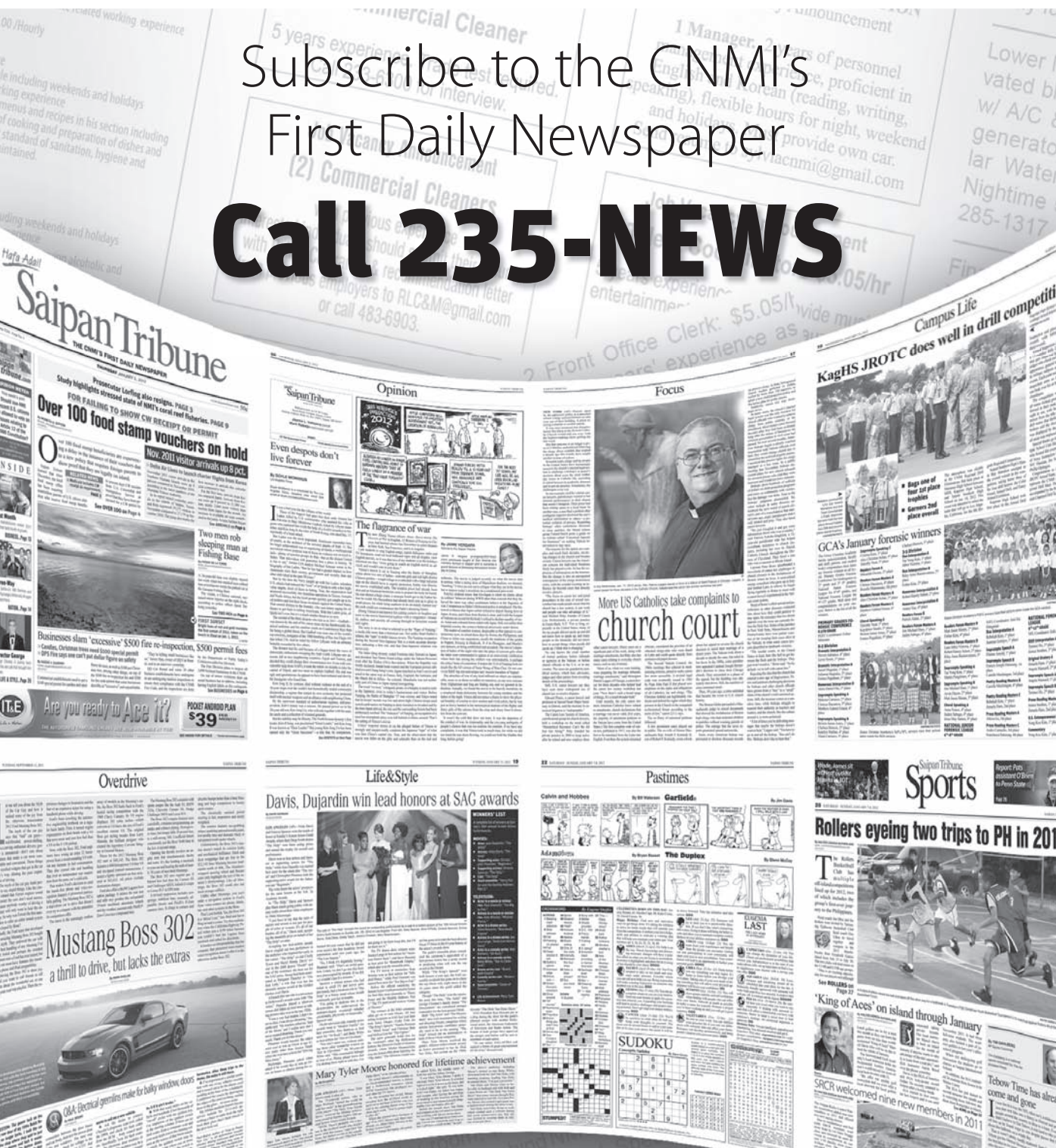
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# Roddick leads del Potro in rained-out match



**NEW YORK**  
(AP)—His match,

and his retirement, put off for at least another day, Andy Roddick stepped out of Arthur Ashe Stadium and into the drizzly night, a black jacket's hood pulled over his head, a bag of ice soothing his right shoulder.

He'll try to prolong his U.S. Open - and his professional tennis career - on Wednesday.

Roddick's fourth-round showdown against another past champion at Flushing Meadows, Juan Martin del Potro of Argentina, was suspended because of rain Tuesday night, with the American leading 1-0 in a first-set tiebreaker.

A little more than a half-hour later, the players were told they could head to their hotels.

They were scheduled to resume Wednesday as the second match in Ashe, after four-time major champion Maria Sharapova's quarterfinal against 2007 Wimbledon runner-up Marion Bartoli. That was halted Tuesday with Bartoli ahead 4-0.

In another men's game, Roger Federer, refreshed after getting a free ride into the U.S. Open quarterfinals, will be back on court at Flushing Meadows on Wednesday to play for a spot in the last four.

The Swiss master was gifted a place in the quarters when American Mardy Fish withdrew from their fourth round match because of health concerns but faces a tough challenge from Czech Tomas Berdych.

Federer has beaten Berdych in 11 of their previous 15 meetings and has yet to drop a set in this year's tournament as he chases his sixth U.S. Open title.

The winner will play either Olympic champion Andy Murray or big-serving Croatian Marin Cilic, who are also slated to clash on a beefed-up schedule caused by four long rain delays on Tuesday.



Andy Roddick returns a shot to Argentina's Juan Martin Del Potro in the fourth round of the 2012 US Open tennis tournament, Tuesday, Sept. 4, 2012, in New York. AP

Murray has won all his matches in straight sets and got progressively better with each appearance.

"I hope I'm going to play better for the rest of the tournament but you never know," he said.

Other matches stopped in progress, also in the first set, included defending champion Novak Djokovic against No. 18 Stanislas Wawrinka, and No. 8 Janko Tipsarevic against No. 19 Philipp Kohlschreiber.

On a day of off-and-on action because of intermittent showers, only two singles matches were completed: Top-seeded Victoria Azarenka reached her first U.S. Open semifinal by cobbling together a 6-1, 4-6, 7-6 (5) victory over defending champion Sam Stosur, and No. 4 David Fer-

rer reached the quarterfinals by beating No. 13 Richard Gasquet 7-5, 7-6 (2), 6-4.

So, Victoria, what went through your mind as your high-tension, high-quality match stretched into that third-set tiebreaker?

"You don't want to know what I kept telling myself," Azarenka deadpanned. "I would have to beep that, I think."

She went on to offer a cleaned-up version of what her thoughts had been - "Don't be a chicken" - while assuring herself of retaining the No. 1 ranking no matter what happens the rest of this week.

"Definitely I don't want to stop. I really want it bad," Azarenka said about the prospect of adding a second Grand Slam

trophy to the one she earned in January at the Australian Open. "I'm going to do absolutely everything I have, you know, to give it all here."

Her match, like most at Flushing Meadows so far, took second billing to one involving the 20th-seeded Roddick, who surprisingly announced last week that this tournament would be the last of his career.

Since then, he picked up victories over players ranked 43rd and 59th, but the No. 7-seeded del Potro figured to provide more of a challenge. Del Potro is the only man other than Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal or Djokovic to win any of the past 30 Grand Slam titles.

There were thousands of

empty blue seats when Roddick and del Potro took to the court, probably owing to the showers that led to about an hour's delay at the start of the marquee match. It was hardly the full house of rowdy, partisan fans that Roddick might have hoped for.

More spectators filed in as things progressed, and those who were there certainly grabbed each and every opportunity to cheer for their man.

They even gave del Potro a bit of a hard time when he had a couple of ball boys go wipe a wet spot near the baseline with white towels.

It was misty at the outset, and the humidity topped 80 percent, leaving both men's shirts sopped with sweat.

Roddick came out the aggressor, looking for any opportunity to get to the net, and the volley he smacked to end the third game glanced off the 6-foot-6 del Potro's right shoulder.

Not much later, Roddick nosed ahead, breaking for a 4-2 lead and shaking his right fist vigorously when del Potro flubbed a backhand into the net.

Roddick held for 5-2, saving a break point along the way and showing off quite a varied repertoire: an ace, a drop-shot winner, a backhand winner down the line and an inside-out forehand passing shot.

Seemingly in control, Roddick suddenly slowed, and del Potro finally began showing off the big, flat forehand that carried him past Federer in the 2009 U.S. Open final.

Del Potro pounded one forehand so hard that Roddick shanked an attempted reply off his racket handle, sending the ball into the fourth row of the stands behind him.

It was a rough 15 minutes for the crowd favorite, who five times stood two points from claiming the set, but couldn't get closer. When Roddick served for it at 5-3, he played a loose game, rolling his eyes after putting one backhand into the net, then sailing an approach shot long and rushing a forehand long. Del Potro broke there and eventually, as drops began to fall, they headed to the tiebreaker.

After only one point, an inside-out forehand winner by Roddick, chair umpire Carlos Bernardes stepped down to inspect the wet court and declared it unplayable. A few spectators booed. Roddick and del Potro sat in their changeover chairs for a few minutes, until being told the delay would be substantial enough that they could wait it out in the locker room.

Not much after that, they found out they would need to come back Wednesday, when the forecast calls for an 80 percent chance of rain.

## NFL champions Giants kick off season vs Cowboys



**EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP)** — A good start is what is on the line this time when the New York Giants host the Dallas Cowboys in the NFL season opener.

The stakes were much greater the last time the NFC East foes faced off to close the last regular season. New York won to claim the division title en route to the Super Bowl title. Dallas was left out of the postseason.

On Wednesday night at MetLife Stadium, the winner will take the early upper hand in the divisional race.

For Eli Manning and the Super Bowl champion Giants, this will be a chance to silence the critics and detractors who have sounded off repeatedly after they beat the New England Patriots in February to claim their second title in five seasons.

The Giants heard it all. They were lucky to get into the playoffs with a 9-7 record. They really didn't beat the Packers or 49ers, they were just handed the games. There is a lot more, but that is the gist.

That is now over.

The goal for Tom Coughlin's players is to show they have constructed that bridge the 65-year-old coach urged them to build to link their late-season 6-0 run to the title to the 2012 campaign.

"The leadership we have on this football team, that's going to be the spine of the bridge, if you will," defensive captain Justin Tuck said. "I think we're in a good place as far as where we want to be coming into the game."

The Giants are confident, and they don't care what outsiders are saying about them.

"We've already showed people who we are," safety Antrel Rolle said. "We can care less about that. We leave that up to spectators. We're just going out there and playing ball. And that is what it is all about. We can care less about what kind of recognition we are getting or who is crowning us and who is not crowning us. None of that matters coming into the 2012 season."

Jerry Jones' Cowboys face a much different task after an 8-8 campaign that ended with an embarrassing 31-14 loss to the Giants on New Year's Day.

The outspoken owner, who boasted to fans that

his team would kick the Giants' posteriors in Dallas when the clubs meet a second time this season on Oct. 28, knows the window for the aging Cowboys to return to the franchise's glory years is fading fast.

"It's a great opportunity for us is how I look at it," Jones said of the season opener. "So very meaningful. Everybody has all the appreciation in the world for what we're up against here, the quality of the team, so to have success up there would be very meaningful."

"As in any game in the NFL, it's certainly not how you ultimately will wind up one way or the other, but it is a big game in front of really the entire world of sports, high visible game against the world champions."

Romo will again be under the spotlight. He has yet to lead the 'Boys to a title, and many wonder whether he will after a late-season meltdown in which Dallas lost four of its final five games, including two to the Giants.

"I think they always stick with you," Romo said of the last game. "That's what fuels you in the off-season and makes you ... you want to remember

those moments so you can improve from them. As a football team, we've taken an approach that we need to get better. I think we've done that with the personnel and our approach and the way the guys have been committed. It's been great to see. Now it's time to take it to the field."

There are a couple of key matchups to watch.

Manning and receivers Victor Cruz and Hakeem Nicks combined for 14 receptions for 237 yards in New York's 37-34 win in Dallas on Dec. 11, and they had 11 more catches for 254 yards and two touchdowns in the division-deciding game.

In the offseason, the Cowboys signed former Chiefs cornerback Brandon Carr as a free agent and moved up eight spots in the first round of the draft to take another cornerback, Morris Claiborne of LSU.

The key to the Giants' success in the postseason was the ability of the defensive line to pressure quarterbacks. The assault will again be led by All Pro Jason Pierre-Paul, Tuck and fellow two-time Pro Bowler Osi Umenyiora.

Dallas has revamped its offensive line, signing veteran guards Mackenzy Bernadeau and Nate Livings, and having tackles Tyron Smith and Doug Free switch sides. Center Phil Costa returns in the middle.



# Rays down struggling Yankees, AL East tied



ST. PETERSBURG, Fla.

(AP)—That big lead in the AL East is gone.

The New York Yankees are in a free-fall that's seen them blow a 10-game cushion over the past 47 days.

"We're scuffling a little bit, but hopefully be able to break out of it tomorrow," Derek Jeter said Tuesday night after a 5-2 loss to the Tampa Bay Rays dropped the Yankees into a tie for first place with surging Baltimore.

New York had been sitting atop the division standings by itself for 84 consecutive days - its longest streak since 2004.

"Nothing changes. We play everybody. How many games do we have left?" Jeter said. "Win all of them, we're good, right? We don't have to worry about anybody else. We still have games left. We've got to find ways to win, that's the bottom line. Nothing's changed. You hope you have that one game where it seems to snowball from there."

## Orioles 12, Blue Jays 0

In Toronto, this is uncharted territory for a generation of Baltimore Orioles fans.

With a 12-0 trouncing of the Blue Jays in Toronto on Tuesday, plus a New York Yankees loss to the Rays in Tampa Bay, the Orioles moved into a share of first place in the American League East.

A year ago Tuesday, the Orioles were 30 games out of first place. On Tuesday, the Orioles got ahead enough to rest some regulars late in the game.

It's the latest the Orioles have held a share of the lead in the division since 1997, when the club went wire-to-wire to win the division crown.

## Angels 6, Athletics 1

In Oakland, Zack Greinke pitched seven sharp innings to win his third consecutive start and the Los Angeles Angels beat the Oakland Athletics, 6-1.

Kendrys Morales had three hits and an RBI for the Angels, who remained 3 1/2 games out



Tampa Bay Rays starting pitcher Alex Cobb delivers to the New York Yankees during the first inning of a baseball game, Tuesday, Sept. 4, 2012, in St. Petersburg, Fla.

of a wild-card spot in the American League. Los Angeles has won four of five on its six-game road trip and 11 of 14 overall.

## Red Sox 4, Mariners 3

In Seattle, Cody Ross hit a tying three-run homer in the sixth inning. Ryan Lavanway connected two batters later and the Boston Red Sox snapped their seven-game losing streak with a 4-3 win over the Seattle Mariners.

The Red Sox began with another lackluster effort on this miserable road trip before pulling even with a rally that took just six pitches.

Dustin Pedroia and Jacoby Ellsbury opened the sixth with singles off Seattle starter Blake Beavan (9-9) before Ross hit his 20th homer of the season.

## Twins 18, White Sox 9

In Chicago, Scott Diamond enjoyed plenty of run support from his teammates once again.

Chris Parmelee homered to cap a 10-run fifth inning and Minnesota routed the Chicago White Sox, 18-9.

It was the second time the Twins reached double digits in an inning this year. They also had a 10-run outburst Aug. 6

against Cleveland during Diamond's previous win.

## Royals 6, Rangers 3

In Kansas City, Salvador Perez's pickoff throw changed the momentum, and Jeremy Guthrie was unhittable after that.

Guthrie pitched seven strong innings and the Kansas City Royals got home runs from Alex Gordon and Johnny Givota in a 6-3 victory over the Texas Rangers.

After giving up five hits to his first 10 batters, Guthrie did not allow another hit after Ian Kinsler led off the third with a double.

## Indians 3, Tigers 2

In Detroit, Jim Leyland loaded the lineup with lefties against Justin Masterson, then watched his Detroit Tigers struggle to another loss.

Afterward, there wasn't a hint of panic in his voice.

Don't expect a lot of theatrics from the veteran manager over these final pressure-packed weeks of the regular season - no matter how exasperating things look on the field.

Masterson pitched six solid innings Tuesday night, and the Cleveland Indians beat

Detroit, 3-2, for their second straight victory over the play-off-chasing Tigers.

## Diamondbacks 8, Giants 6

In San Francisco, Aaron Hill had a career-high five hits and Jason Kubel tripled home the tiebreaking run in the 11th inning to lead the Arizona Diamondbacks over the San Francisco Giants, 8-6.

The first-place Giants used 11 pitches, matching a major league record for extra-inning games. They remained 4 1/2 games ahead of Los Angeles in the NL West because the Dodgers also lost at home in extra innings, to San Diego.

## Padres 6, Dodgers 3

In Los Angeles, Logan Forsythe hit a two-run single with the bases loaded in the 11th inning after Yasmani Grandal tied the score with a two-run homer in the eighth, and the San Diego Padres beat the Los Angeles Dodgers, 6-3.

The Dodgers wasted an excellent outing from ace Clayton Kershaw and dropped 1 1/2 games behind St. Louis in the race for the second NL wild card.

John Ely (0-1), working his second inning of relief, gave

up a leadoff single to Cameron Maybin in the 11th.

## Rockies 6, Braves 0

In Atlanta, Drew Pomeranz got the Colorado Rockies started on a rare shutout.

Pomeranz and three relievers combined on a nine-hitter, Carlos Gonzalez and Jordan Pacheco hit homers and the Rockies shut out the Atlanta Braves, 6-0.

Pomeranz needed 72 pitches to make it through three innings. He gave up five hits and one walk, but the Braves couldn't score against him despite having two runners on in each inning.

## Pirates, 6, Astros 2

In Pittsburgh, turns out all Andrew McCutchen needed to get going was a few at-bats against the Houston Astros.

Just like everybody else.

The All-Star center fielder put together his major league-leading sixth four-hit game of the season and drove in three runs to lead the Pittsburgh Pirates to a 6-2 win over Houston.

"It's just all about getting that feeling back," McCutchen said. "It felt pretty good tonight."

## Nationals 11, Cubs 5

In Washington, the Nationals' talented rotation has overshadowed its lineup for most of the season.

It turns out the NL East leaders can hit, too.

Adam LaRoche hit two of Washington's six homers, Ian Desmond had four RBIs and the Nationals beat the Chicago Cubs, 11-5.

LaRoche and Jayson Werth had four hits apiece for the Nationals, who opened a season-high 7 1/2-game advantage in the division. Second-place Atlanta lost to Colorado 6-0.

## Mets 5, Cardinals 1

In St. Louis, Jaime Garcia has always been a better pitcher at Busch Stadium than on the road. The New York Mets saw just how much better the lefty can be.

Garcia carried a shutout into the eighth inning and Yadier Molina got his 1,000th career hit with an infield single that started a three-run second against rookie Matt Harvey in the St. Louis Cardinals' 5-1 victory.

For his career, Garcia is 18-11 with a 2.42 ERA at home, and 13-11 with a 4.59 ERA on the road.

## Brewers 8, Marlins 4

In Miami, Norichika Aoki showed he is capable of providing some pop at the plate.

Aoki hit a two-run home run and an RBI double to establish a career-high with three RBIs for the Milwaukee Brewers in an 8-4 win over the Miami Marlins.

"He really was good today," Brewers manager Ron Roenicke said. "Even the last ball they got to him in left-center, he hammered it. This is a big ball park and he goes deep to right-center and then hits a ball to the warning track in left-center. He hammered balls today."

## Phillies 2, Reds 1

In Cincinnati, Jay Bruce is back to reacting to pitches instead of thinking about what's coming. And when he gets on a surge like this one, the outcome is predictable.

He hits home runs in bunches.

The right fielder homered for the third straight game, a two-run shot that sent the Cincinnati Reds to a 2-1 victory over the Philadelphia Phillies.

# Snedeker to make US Ryder Cup debut as rookie



NEW YORK (AP) -- Brandt Snedeker had nothing more than big hopes and another strong finish when he left the TPC Boston, expecting to wait deep into the night for a phone call from Ryder Cup captain Davis Love III that would determine if he was on the U.S. team.

"I had no clue one way or another," Snedeker said Tuesday. "Got on the plane, got here to Indianapolis and got a voicemail from Davis just asking if I brought my putter from Boston and if I wanted to be on the team. I was just so excited. Couldn't hardly sleep last night. Just a huge, huge thing for my career."

Snedeker was among four players whom Love selected to fill out his 12-man Ryder Cup team. The captain also took a pair of veterans, Jim Furyk and Steve Stricker, and Dustin Johnson, who

showed the hottest hand over the past two weeks and who Love said was "perfect for Medinah."

The Ryder Cup is Sept. 28-30 at Medinah outside Chicago, which has hosted the PGA Championship twice since 1999 and is known as a power golf course. Tiger Woods won two majors there.

More than power, however, Love emphasized putting.

Stricker is regarded as one of the best in the game, and Snedeker is not far behind, as he showed at the British Open and during his charge up the leaderboard the past two weeks at Bethpage Black and the TPC Boston.

"I've been saying a lot that we need hot putters, and there really has not been a hotter putter on tour since the British Open," Love said, referring to Snedeker, one of four Ryder Cup rookies for the U.S.

There was just as much talk about who didn't make the team.

Hunter Mahan, whose two PGA Tour wins this year included the Match Play Championship when he beat Rory McIlroy, was leading the Ryder Cup standings after the Masters and still didn't qualify for the eight automatic spots.

He had to rely on a pick after he missed the cut in the PGA Championship, and then he missed the cut at The Barclays and was in the middle of the pack at the Deutsche Bank Championship.

"The Ryder Cup has been a goal for every American player, and it's disappointing not to be a part of it," Mahan said Tuesday from the BMW Championship in Indiana. "I've been part of the last five teams, so it hurts not to be a part of it, and it feels a little empty right now. It's tough because I've still got two events to play, and they don't feel quite as

important as I want them to be right now."

Also left off was Rickie Fowler, who picked up his first PGA Tour win this year at Quail Hollow and turned in the most dynamic American performance at Wales two years ago when he won the last four holes to earn a halve that kept alive the American chances. Fowler has not had a top 10 since a tie for fifth at the Colonial in May.

"I definitely felt like I was kind of on the outside looking in," he said.

Fowler took a month off between the U.S. Open and British Open to try to stay fresh for the end of the year, and he could only wonder if it cost him. He missed four tournaments, including the Travelers Championship and AT&T National, where he could have earned points.

"I can obviously say that maybe we should have went a different route, but obviously you can always say that when something doesn't work out," Fowler said. "Just didn't play as well as I would have liked to this summer."







Roddick leads del Potro  
in rained-out match



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# Saipan Tribune Sports

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Rays down struggling  
Yankees, AL East  
tied



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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## D&Q and POI Aviation move closer to finals



WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND  
D&Q Distributors' shortstop Ton Guerrero looks for his next move after charging a ground ball against Kanoa Resort during their game in the Tan Holdings 40th Anniversary Sports Festival's 18U Youth Baseball Tournament last Sunday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND  
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REPORTER

**D**&Q Distributors and POI Aviation recorded separate victories at the continuation of the Tan Holdings 40th Anniversary Sports Festival's 18U Youth Baseball Tournament to move a win away from marching into the finals.



D & Q defeated Kanoa Resort, 8-3, last Sunday, while POI snuffed Fiesta Resort, 6-5, last Monday to arrange their duel for the

See D&Q on Page 23

## Short work at Shirley's badminton tournament



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Aries Cordero, right, chases a low shot, while Chris Hilario backs him up during their men's B doubles game against Puy Macario and Brandon Talaria in the Shirley's badminton tournament last weekend at the TSL Sports Complex.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER



Winners of all eight singles matches in the 2012 Shirley's Coffee Shop Singles/Doubles Badminton Tournament needed only two games to thwart their respective foes last Sunday at the TSL Sports Complex in Gualo Rai.

In the women's Class A, many-time singles champion

Hannai Choi lived up to her lofty billing after sweeping Lani Bartolome, 21-16, 21-7. Joining Choi in the win column in the women's singles were Class B's Loida Ito and Toshiko Obata and Class C's Alma Ortega.

Ito challenged Windy Fernandez and eked out a 21-16 victory in the first game before cruising to a 21-9 win in the second to complete the sweep. In the second women's Class B singles

See SHORT on Page 23

## 5 countries compete in Micro Cup



WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Saipan Outrigger Canoe Club's men's team barrels down the home stretch during the Hoe Lokahi Canoe Club's monthly training exhibition races held at Kili Beach in May this year.

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND  
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REPORTER

Teams from Hong Kong, Japan, Palau, Guam, and the CNMI are expected to turn out for the 14th Micronesian Cup Outrigger Canoe Series that Saipan will be hosting next month.

The event, which will be held here for the fifth time, will take place on Oct. 27 and 28 with Kanoa Resort serving as the

host venue.

"Saipan has a bit of a reputation to uphold when it comes to organizing the Micro Cup and we are working hard to make this another successful event. We would like to invite everyone to come out and watch the races and share in the excitement," said Saipan Outrigger Canoe Club's Richard Sikkell in an email to *Saipan Tribune*.

See COUNTRIES on Page 23

## 4 Tsunami Saipan swimmers recognized

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER



Tsunami Saipan Swimming Center honored four of its members for their outstanding performance in the 2011-2012 season.

Ryuto Yanai and Miku Tammy were named co-recipients of the Coach's Award of the Year, while Kensuke Kimura and Heong-Joo Yoo were declared most valuable swimmer and rookie of the year, respectively.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Ryuto Yanai, seen here racing in a 50m freestyle event, was one of the four awardees in Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan's season-ending recognition day.

The four Tsunami Saipan swimmers received plaques during the club's season-ending recognition day held in June this year at PauPau Beach.

The 12-year-old Yoo was hailed the best newcomer for posting three A times during the Guam Championships in May this year. Yoo submitted 33 seconds in the 50m freestyle in the 50m freestyle, while his two other A marks came from the 50m and 100m breaststroke events.

Yanai and Tammy shared the Coach's Award of the Year for

See TSUNAMI on Page 23